

## PLO leadership meets in Tunis

TUNIS (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was to hold its first high-level meeting to review the Middle East peace talks since Israel elected Yitzhak Rabin to lead the government, PLO sources said Monday. The meeting set for late Monday or early Tuesday coincides with the visit to Israel of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. The PLO has been cautiously optimistic over the Labour Party's victory over the right-wing Likud in recent elections, and said they hope Mr. Rabin will halt construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories. The PLO has called the settlements "the obstacle" to negotiations. The PLO meeting is the first high-level gathering since the Palestine Central Council met in May. It precedes a meeting set for Friday in Damascus of foreign ministers from Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. The foreign ministers will attempt to coordinate their positions before the next set of talks scheduled to be held in Rome. The meeting in Tunis will include members of the PLO's Executive Committee and four members of the Palestine National Council. Members of the Central Committee of Fatah and leaders of other PLO factions also were to attend. No other details of the meeting were immediately available.



# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الدار

## Yemen, S. Arabia begin Geneva contacts

GENEVA (R) — Yemeni and Saudi Arabian officials Monday began preliminary contacts in Geneva to set up talks on a border dispute which has jeopardised oil company exploration in the area, Arab sources said. But the sources indicated the heads of delegations from the two countries, who arrived at the weekend, had still to decide whereabouts to meet. There was no comment, or even confirmation that talks might take place, from either the Saudi or Yemeni missions to the United Nations European Headquarters in Geneva. Officials in Sanaa, the Yemeni capital, said at the weekend the aim of the Geneva talks would be to reach agreement on the time and venue for holding official negotiations. The Arab sources said the two delegations were in telephone contact and discussing exactly what would be on their agenda. "The meeting is a preliminary one to exchange ideas on the arrangements to start negotiations between the two countries on different issues ... mainly the Yemeni-Saudi border," Yemeni Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Dali, heading the team to Geneva, told the official Yemeni News Agency. There was no official word from Saudi Arabia. No early progress seen, page 2.

Volume 17 Number 5058

AMMAN TUESDAY, JULY 21, 1992, MUHAREM 28, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

## Guerrillas attacks SLA post

MARIYOUN, Lebanon (R) — Guerrillas fired mortar bombs at an Israeli-backed militia post in South Lebanon on Monday but caused no casualties, security sources said. They said about 10 mortar bombs were fired at the South Lebanon Army (SLA) position on a hilltop overlooking the village of Braichit just outside Israel's "security zone" in the south. SLA gunners retaliated by shelling an area near Braichit.

## Luxembourg judge stays BCCI ruling

LUXEMBOURG (R) — A Luxembourg judge on Monday withheld a key ruling on the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), saying it was unclear whether a proposed compensation plan for creditors would really benefit them. "It is unclear whether there are advantages for creditors in the proposed settlement offered by the majority shareholders," the judge, Maryse Weiser, said in a brief statement at the Luxembourg district court. She ordered a new hearing for Oct. 7. The judge ordered that all unsecured, known creditors of BCCI in Luxembourg should be consulted by the bank's Luxembourg liquidators between now and Oct. 1. The judge's decision will delay further the implementation of the contested compensation plan, which is backed by BCCI's majority shareholder Abu Dhabi and the bank's liquidators Touche Ross, and other creditors who oppose the plan.

## 2 killed trying to blow up Sudan bridge

KHARTOUM (R) — Two men were killed in a bungled attempt to blow up a bridge on a road connecting the Sudanese capital to the country's main port, Khartoum, newspapers reported on Monday. It was the first case of sabotage reported in northern Sudan since military ruler Omar Hassan Al Bashir seized power from a civilian government in June 1989. State-owned Al Ingaz Al Watani newspaper said the men were killed by explosives they were planting at Zebeib Bridge on July 13. It said the bridge, 580 kilometres north-east of Khartoum and 80 kilometres southwest of Sudan port, was not damaged. The newspaper said there might be a link between the attempt to demolish the bridge and a call for sabotage attacks by the Cairo-based opposition National Democratic Alliance (NDA) which is seeking to overthrow Lieutenant-General Bashir.

## Press freedom group condemns Turkey

PARIS (R) — A French-based press freedom group condemned Turkey on Monday for what it said were violations of press freedom, including the death of several journalists in strange circumstances, imprisonment of reporters and censorship. In a statement released ahead of Turkey's freedom of the press day on Friday, the independent group Reporters sans Frontiers (RSF) said six journalists had died in Turkey this year "in often unclear circumstances." It named the journalists and gave the dates of their deaths, but did not give other details. It also said 10 journalists were in jail "for example for having photographed an authorised demonstration or 'insulted the president'" in a satirical magazine.

## Iran reports fighting in southern Iraq

NICOSIA (R) — The sound of explosions from Iraqi army attacks against rebels in southern marshes were heard across the border in Iran on Sunday and Monday, the Iranian news agency IRNA said. Reporters in the border town of Dasht-e Azadegan heard the blasts from the fighting, near the Iraqi city of Amara, it said. An Iran-based Shiite opposition group, the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, said Iraqi government forces were using MIG-23 aircraft, helicopters and tanks in the offensive launched last Wednesday.

# Israelis, Palestinians report progress after talks with Baker

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's new government and Palestinian leaders said U.S. Secretary of State James Baker made progress on Monday in his bid to resuscitate Middle East peace talks. "Basically I think there was progress that I'd call meaningful progress," Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said after meeting Mr. Baker.

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi told reporters after a separate meeting: "I think we achieved progress in terms of the agreement and resuming negotiations in an ongoing and stepped-up, escalated way." Neither offered specifics.

Palestinian leaders appeared to have softened their position, moving away from threats to pull out of negotiations if Israeli settlement construction in the occupied territories did not come to a halt.

"We did not say we want to see a total settlement freeze before

we negotiate," Dr. Ashrawi said. "But we maintain our position that settlement activities and the peace process are incompatible, and we expressed this very clearly in the hope that Secretary Baker would also relay this to the Israeli side," she said.

Dr. Ashrawi said it was now up to Israel to offer confidence-building measures to improve the atmosphere for negotiations. She said the Palestinians would respond in kind.

"Every time the Israelis go on one concrete step forward in terms of changes on the ground, we will certainly acknowledge that in many different ways," she said.

Dr. Ashrawi said beforehand that the delegation would ask Mr. Baker not to give Israel \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees for immigrant absorption unless it completely freezes settlement building.

"We feel that the integrity of

the peace process is at stake. Any loan guarantees given while settlement building is continuing would violate the process," Dr. Ashrawi told the Associated Press Sunday night.

The Palestinians' meeting with Mr. Baker lasted for more than three hours, and both sides left the U.S. consulate in West Jerusalem without speaking to reporters. The Palestinians attending the session were Dr. Ashrawi, chief delegate Haidar Abdul Shafi, adviser Faisal Hussein and delegates Ghassan Khatib and Sami Kilani.

A news conference held later Monday by the Palestinians in an East Jerusalem theatre was disrupted when four Jewish extremists, including one armed with a submachine gun, shouted outside the building "There is no Palestine."

The armed demonstrator, Tiran Pollack of the anti-Arab Kach movement, repeatedly

pointed his gun at unarmed Palestinian bodyguards who pushed and shoved him until border police took him away.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, while taking steps towards curbing construction, said he would continue building in areas he considers vital to Israel's "security," such as the Jerusalem area and the Jordan Valley.

Mr. Baker met with Mr. Rabin on Sunday night and praised the new Israeli leader's steps to partially curb building in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israel has decided not to sign new contracts for building in the territories and not build previously planned settlements until all past government projects are reviewed.

Mr. Rabin, taking office last week, made accelerating the U.S.-brokered peace talks a chief priority of his new government.

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## Blast in rebel-held north Iraq wounds 2 U.N. guards

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Two U.N. guards were slightly injured by flying glass when a car bomb exploded in northern Iraq on Monday, the third attack on United Nations personnel in Kurdistan this month.

U.N. sources said the guards were in a U.N. building in the Kurdish city of Sulaimaniyah when the bomb exploded, destroying an unoccupied car and sending shards of glass scything through their quarters.

A Fijian guard was shot dead in Kurdistan last week and in an earlier incident two guards were badly wounded when a grenade was thrown at the house in which they were living.

The U.N. sources in Baghdad said the guards would maintain their presence in the country despite the attacks.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has warned the Security Council that international personnel in the country were in danger.

The bomb explosion in Sulaimaniyah came as Iraqis marched in the streets of Baghdad to stress support for their government in its confrontation with the world body over weapons inspection missions.

U.N. officials said crowds of Iraqis demonstrated near the agriculture ministry (see page 2). They refused to give details of the demonstration, but Gulf radio stations said thousands of people took part. They quoted labour

union leaders as saying they could no longer "contain the wrath" of the people.

Several other such protest marches have been held since July 5, when the Iraqis blocked the team from entering the building suspected of harbouring documents on Iraq's ballistic missiles. The inspectors have since maintained an around-the-clock vigil outside the building.

On Sunday, Iraq offered to allow arms experts from "neutral" countries into the building, saying American experts sent by the United Nations are spies. The Iraqi offer was conveyed to Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. special commission overseeing "elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction."

Mr. Ekeus left Baghdad Sunday after a three-day mission during which he failed to resolve the deadlock over the search of the agriculture ministry. He stopped in Bahrain en route to New York but would not say what his response to the offer was.

The United States last week cautioned Iraq that by obstructing inspection missions it was "putting at risk" the ceasefire that ended the Gulf war last year.

The guards injured in Monday's blast in the north were treated for injuries caused by flying glass but were not admitted to hospital.

About 500 U.N. guards and 600 aid workers work in Iraq.

## Islamist bloc in Jordan assails Baker mission

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Islamic Movement in Jordan Monday strongly condemned a visit to the Middle East by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and warned the Islamic Nation and the Palestinian people against new Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's "evil plots and acts of deception."

On the eve of Mr. Baker's arrival in Jordan, the 22-member Muslim Brotherhood, the largest bloc in the Lower House of Parliament, said the U.S. secretary's visit to the region "comes at a very crucial stage amidst international conspiracies concocted by the United States in collusion with and backed by Jewish deception and Arab regimes' weakness and shortcomings."

In six-point statement, the Muslim Brotherhood said that Mr. Baker's tour of the region

"comes in the wake of the election victory of Rabin, the mastermind behind the breaking of Palestinian people's bones and whose success was hailed by many of his allies and agents." "Rabin's comeback was welcomed by many despite his declared policies and plans to abort the creation of a Palestinian state and his pledge to maintain the Jewish settlement programme in the Jordan Valley, in Jerusalem and the Golan Heights," the statement said. "All that Rabin promised is a temporary halt of licences for more settlements not affecting the current settlement schemes."

"Rabin is going ahead with plans to offer the Palestinians a humiliating autonomy rule only over a part of Palestine, depriving

(Continued on page 5)

## Over 80 held in Algeria as violence rages on

ALGIERS (Agencies) — More than 80 people were arrested following two days of clashes between fundamentalists and security forces, authorities said Monday, as a new government appointed Sunday night began its first day of work.

Belaid Abdul Salam, appointed premier July 8 by the ruling military-backed High State Council, announced the appointment of 22 ministers late Sunday. The new government retained seven members of the former cabinet of premier Sidahmad Ghazali and presented no surprises (see page 2).

The national police announced that the nationwide clashes that began Friday following weekly prayers and continued through Saturday had resulted in the arrest of 77 fundamentalists, including 11 in Algiers.

Among those arrested was the imam 'Ain Deffa who was jailed for "preaching agitation

and threatening authorities," police said.

Others were arrested for weapons possession and disrupting public order, police said.

Algerian state radio reported Sunday that a gunbattle between police and "armed elements" in the eastern city of Constantine had severely damaged the building housing radio and television stations. It was not immediately known if anyone was killed or injured in the fighting.

One person was killed and two were wounded when rioters in Algiers threw up barricades of burning tyres, sparking clashes with security forces.

At least six people have been killed since Friday in clashes between supporters of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and security forces.

The official news agency APS said security forces had to use

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His Majesty King Hussein Monday opens a forestry seeds production centre in Balqa Governorate (Petra photo)

## Forestry seeds production centre opened in Balqa

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday opened forestry seeds production centre in Al Kamaliyyeh area in Balqa Governorate.

King Hussein also visited a soil survey project in the area. Agriculture Minister Fayez Al Khasawneh delivered an address at the opening ceremony and paid tribute to King Hussein's continued support for the Ministry of Agriculture's plans to develop the agriculture sector and increase the area of forests in Jordan.

Dr. Khasawneh stressed the importance of forests and called for preserving them for the benefit of present and future generations.

He said that large areas of Jordan were covered with trees and forests. But, he added, many

of these trees disappeared because of the arbitrary grazing of cattle and the disorganised use of trees for various purposes.

The minister said that 750,000 dunums of land in Jordan are covered with about 40 million trees. The ministry seeks to preserve these areas and plant trees in other parts with the objective of greening all of Jordan, he said.

He said planting trees by the ministry started on a limited scale in the 1950s with 1,000 trees planted annually, while currently 30,000 trees are planted annually.

Nurseries were producing 500,000 saplings a year in the 1950s while now they are producing about nine million saplings annually. Half of the production is planted in forests and pastor

lands while the rest is distributed to citizens for free.

The Al Kamaliyyah centre, the first of its kind in the Middle East region, can store two tonnes of seeds which would produce millions of saplings. The centre will also enable Jordan to be self-sufficient in sapling production and even export the surplus.

The centre was established this year with aid from Germany.

The opening ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Khalid Al Karaki, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid, Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour, the governors of Amman and Balqa, the German ambassador and other Jordanian and German officials.

## Opponents of Lebanon poll call one-day protest strike

BEIRUT (R) — Christian leaders opposed to the holding of general elections in Lebanon before a Syrian troops pullback issued a call on Monday for a one-day protest strike.

The pound sank to its record low against the dollar following the call for the strike for Thursday.

Right-wing Christian leader Samir Geagea said the planned elections endangered the government's goal of building a durable peace after the end of Lebanon's civil war in October 1990.

"We are at a crossroads. The march of national reconciliation is about to abandon its goals," Dr. Geagea told a news conference.

He called for a peaceful one-day general strike against the planned polls and urged officials to "seize this chance to save the second republic which is on its last legs."

Dr. Geagea heads the Lebanese Forces (LF), which opposes Syrian involvement in Lebanon and was the country's most powerful militia until it was disbanded as a private army last year.

Dr. Geagea and other Christian opponents want to stop elections planned by the Syrian-

backed government for August or September before Syrian troops are supposed to pull back to east Lebanon.

The Beirut government is due this week to set a date for the first parliamentary election in 20 years. Western powers have said they want the polls to be free of any foreign influence.

Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam last week said Syrian troops would remain in Beirut after September if critics of the election were banking on them pulling out before polls.

The small National Liberal Party and underground supporters of exiled rebel Christian General Michel Aoun, whose defeat by Syrian and Lebanese troops ended the war, also demanded a strike on Thursday.

The Lebanese pound plunged to its low of 2,000 to the dollar on the unofficial market on Monday (see page 7) and bankers blamed the fall on the political pressure against the government and election.

Thousands of workers and youths rioted across Lebanon on May 6 — the first day of a three-day general strike in protest against the pound hitting 2,000 and soaring inflation this year.

## Havel's resignation is official

PRAGUE (AP) — President Vaclav Havel, the dissident playwright who won world acclaim for leading Czechoslovakia's peaceful revolt against communism, stepped down on Monday.

His resignation was another milestone on the road towards Czechoslovakia's disintegration. "The Czech and Slovak federal republic does not have a president anymore," said state radio. It said the presidential flag had been lowered over Prague Castle, seat of the presidency.

Mr. Havel announced his resignation plans Friday, moments after the parliament in the poorer eastern republic of Slovakia declared sovereignty, in a move certain to split the country into Czech and Slovak states.

He could have stayed in office until his term expired on Oct. 5, but his early resignation was expected as the breakup he fought to prevent became inevitable.

It followed weeks of intense but futile negotiations on the future of 74-year-old Czechoslovakia, founded on the remains of the Austro-Hungarian empire after World War I.

There were no immediate comments from Mr. Havel and no other word that he had stepped down other than the state radio report.

As Mr. Havel's resignation became official at 6 p.m. (1600 GMT), there were signs of anxiety over how the world would view Czechoslovakia without its most famous public figure at the helm.

"It is hardly possible to find any other person who would by his activities make Czechoslovakia as visible in the world as Havel did," wrote Tomas Smetanka, editor of the Czech daily Lidove Noviny, in a commentary on Monday. "He who does not see that this also applies to Slovakia must either be lying or rather short sighted."

There was speculation Mr. Havel might continue in politics as the president of an independent Czech republic, although the country's breakup has yet to be settled and no such post now exists.

Slovakia, with a third of Czechoslovakia's 15 million people, have been pushing for more independence from Prague since the fall of communism.

## Unemployment crisis easing in Jordan

By Rana Sabbagh  
Reuters



Abdul Karim Kabarti

AMMAN — Jobless Jordanians, whose numbers soared during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, are gradually finding work as the country spends and builds to adapt to the sudden leap in its population.

Labour Minister Abdul Karim Kabarti told Reuters on Monday that the official figure for job-seekers had fallen from 127,000 last year to below 100,000.

He declined to give an unemployment rate but with a 700,000-strong workforce, the figure works out to about 14 per cent, compared to 18 per cent last year.

Not all jobless Jordanians register with the government and some private economists believe the real unemployment

rate peaked last year above 30 per cent. Their current estimate is about 20 per cent.

The government has even begun encouraging foreigners working illegally to register and stay instead of sending them home. They mostly take low-paid jobs spurned by educated Jordanian citizens.

"The unemployment crisis is easing gradually because the economy in general is picking up but we have to continue our efforts to improve the situation," Mr. Kabarti said.

"There is a mini-boom in almost all sectors of the economy, especially in the construction area. But there is also a huge strain on the government to provide services."

The return of an estimated 300,000 citizens, most from Kuwait after Iraq invaded the emirate in 1990, has been a

mixed blessing for debt-saddled Jordan.

The Gulf war damaged almost every aspect of the economy but gross domestic product showed one per cent real growth in 1991 after previous declines.

Officials expect growth this year to exceed the three per cent forecast by the International Monetary Fund.

Although economists caution against expecting sustainable recovery from the sudden population rise of 10 per cent, construction and consumption are booming.

New houses, shops, schools, private hospitals and industries are springing up across Jordan. Exports have also picked up.

Mr. Kabarti said recently

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## Ruling party to recommend third term for Mubarak

CAIRO (AP) — The ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) opened Monday a three-day congress which a senior official said will recommend a third term for President Hosni Mubarak.

Mr. Mubarak's current six-year term ends in October next year. He took office in 1981 after Muslim extremists assassinated President Anwar Sadat.

Mr. Mubarak, a career air force officer, named vice president in 1975, won a second presidential term in 1987.

He commanded the air force in the 1973 war with Israel. As president, he upheld the 1979 peace treaty with Israel and introduced major economic reforms. He played a key role in the Gulf war by spearheading Arab support of the U.S.-led military coalition against Iraq.

His Gulf crisis role enabled him to have about half Egypt's \$44 billion foreign debt written off by the United States, other Western creditors and oil-rich Arab states.

His tenure has witnessed intermittent Muslim extremist violence in which 46 people died this year. But officials, analysts and foreign diplomats agree that the extremists do not threaten the government's survival.

Mr. Mubarak, 64, said in recent public statements that his presidential duties had destroyed his private life and that he and his family would prefer his retirement. But he left the door open for acceptance of a third term in "deference to the people's wishes."

In the last few weeks, NDP caucuses in the country's 26 provinces unanimously supported a third term for Mr. Mubarak in messages to party headquarters in Cairo. Similar resolutions were adopted by large groups such as the general Federation of Labour Unions and the Coptic Christian Holy Synod headed by Pope Shenouda III. The Copts comprise about one-tenth of Egypt's 57 million people.

Under the constitution, the People's Assembly (Parliament) nominates a single presidential candidate by a two-thirds majority. The nomination goes to the national electorate in a yes-or-no vote. The constitution allows any number of consecutive presidential terms.

The NDP has an overwhelming majority in parliament. It holds 383 seats of the 454-member house, and most of the 55 parliamentarians elected as independents support the ruling party.

Party officials said it is a foregone conclusion that the legislature will endorse Mr. Mubarak for a third term. This recommendation will be announced at the end of the congress on Wednesday, they said.

Preparations for the official nomination must begin 60 days before the end of his current term on Oct. 14, 1993.

"The party congress opening Monday will recommend President Mubarak's nomination for a third term in office," said Kamal Al Shazli, the party's parliamentary leader.

"The congress also will elect Mubarak to a new term as chairman of the National Democratic Party," he added.

Opening the 6th congress, attended by about 5,000 members, Youssef Wali, the party secretary-general, said it wants Mr. Mubarak to remain at the helm "to preserve accomplishments already made and maintain continuity."

The party was founded in 1978 after then-President Sadat reinstated the multi-party system and allowed formation of opposition parties, banned under his predecessor Jamal Abdul Nasser. Mr. Wali said NDP now has 2.5 million members.

## Algeria gets new cabinet; focus given to economy

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian Prime Minister Belaid Abdul Salam has formed a new 22-strong government, naming new men to the key oil and interior ministries in a country crippled by debt and shaken by unrest.

Twelve days after taking over from Sid Ahmed Ghozali, the new prime minister appointed Hacem Mefti to head the energy portfolio and Mohammed Harbi as interior minister.

He retained seven of Mr. Ghozali's ministers in his 22-member team, including Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi.

Mr. Ghozali stepped down 10 days after head of state Mohamed Boudiaf was assassinated.

Mr. Abdul Salam, proponent of a "war economy" and seen as lukewarm on moves to a free market economy, kept the economy portfolio himself.

Apparently underlining the emphasis on restoring public order, he named National Security Director-General Mohammed Tolba as a junior minister.

Defence Minister Khaled Nezzar, a member of the collective presidency, kept his key portfolio and Sassi Lamouri remained in charge of religious affairs.

A notable departure was Laarbi Belkheir, a general who as interior minister had the reputation of being one of the most feared and disliked men in the country of 25 million people.

Mr. Abdul Salam kept Abdul

Nour Kerame in the post of industry minister where he has been overseeing efforts to get them on a sound footing and moves towards privatisation.

Since Mr. Abdul Salam took over, Algeria has again been shaken by Muslim fundamentalist unrest, with militants of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) protesting last week against the jailing of their leaders by a military court.

The interior minister has the job of administering the state of emergency decreed last February amid widespread violence over the cancellation of a general election the FIS was set to win.

Algers radio reported scores of arrests over the weekend in continuing fundamentalist protests and said one person was killed in the eastern city of the Constantine.

Three people were killed and 15 wounded in widespread violence after Muslim prayers on Friday.

Diplomats and commentators say Mr. Abdul Salam's new team faces a tough road ahead, dependent in part on foreign backing and yet limited in its scope for action at home.

Some 14 million people live below the official poverty line and officials admit this has driven many into the arms of the FIS.

Some 75 per cent of foreign earnings from oil output of 780,000 barrels a day and gas exports of \$3 billion a year goes

to repay and service a \$25 billion foreign debt.

Subsidies were removed last month from all but three basic items in line with suggestions from the International Monetary Fund whose approval is vital for obtaining more foreign credits.

Further squeezes will fuel yet more anger, say diplomats recalling poverty-inspired riots in 1988.

Tough handling of unrest also provokes protest from Western backers, even though they fear an Islamic state on the southern shores of the Mediterranean.

Privatisation and modernisation of industry will mean more jobs in a country where one in five of the workforce is already unemployed.

Industry is crippled and on Sunday the official news agency APS said industrial activity in the first quarter of this year again fell.

Quoting the national statistic office bulletin due out soon, it said every industry except energy and the agro-food sector recorded falls. Lack of raw materials and semi-finished products hit output so that production reached only between 50 and 75 per cent of potential.

More than half the businesses stopped work for more than six days.

Manufacturing production outside the energy sector was down 11 per cent compared with the already low first quarter of 1991.

## Iraqis protest against U.N. team

BAGHDAD (R) — Thousands of demonstrators hurled insults at U.N. weapons inspectors in Baghdad on Monday and trade union leader warned he may not be able to suppress the wrath of his followers for long.

"Tell the whole world, Iraqi workers have lost patience. They can no longer stand this humiliation," declared Fadil Mahmood Khareeb at the agriculture ministry where the inspectors have been locked in a stand-off with Iraq for more than two weeks.

"We will never allow you, from now on, to humiliate Iraq," trade union chief Khareeb told "Mark Silver, the leader of the arms experts."

The inspectors have been on a vigil outside the ministry since July 5. The U.N. believes Iraq has military information hidden in the building. Baghdad denies it has any military secrets in the ministry.

Mr. Khareeb was speaking, thousands of demonstrators shouted insults at the inspectors.

The demonstration was the biggest so far organised against the presence of the international arms experts.

Protesters marched in groups past the inspectors, denouncing President George Bush as a coward and the inspectors as U.S. spies.

"We are under great pressure from our workers. If we could control them in the past, we won't be able to contain them in the future," Mr. Khareeb said. Iraqi guards have been protecting the inspectors since they were pelted with eggs and fruit soon after the stand-off began.

In Monday's protests, U.S. flags and effigies of President George Bush, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Saudi King Fahd were set ablaze a few metres away from a U.N. car.

Iraq said Sunday it was not responsible for attacks on United Nations personnel in the Kurdish-held north which was outside the control of the central government.

"Iraq is not responsible for the murder of the U.N. guard and the other attacks on U.N. members in the north," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Al Khudayer as saying.

"The United Nations secretary general and the entire world know that the government administration has no presence in the northern region which has become an arena for illegal and irresponsible groups," he added.

The U.N. guard, a Fijian, was killed in northern Iraq on Thursday and U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali warned the Security Council that international personnel in the country were in danger.

The incident follows a grenade attack last week against a house being used by U.N. guards in which two Austrians were seriously injured.

The Security Council on Friday deplored the murder and demanded an end to attacks against U.N. personnel.

## Afghan rebels' glory fades in violence and retribution

KABUL (R) — Mahmoud Habib was teaching English at the U.N. language centre in Kabul when he got word that fighting had broken between rival Afghan factions near his home in the Barikot cinema district.

"I was worried for my family, but I also feared being shot or kidnapped if I went home," Mr. Habib said. "These days we are never certain what to do."

Mr. Habib's journey of a few kilometres last Wednesday night took 11 hours. He travelled a short distance by bus and then wound his way on foot through the narrow lanes and back alleys of Kabul trying to get home.

Turned back by armed men at checkpoints, he was forced to make many detours. Once he claimed onto the roof of a house on a hill and could see explosions and a fire in his neighbourhood.

"I finally got to my street around 5 a.m. and saw three bodies," Mr. Habib said, "including one little girl I knew."

Mr. Habib found his family safe, but says he is now reluctant

to leave his home for fear fighting will break out again.

His long journey was not exceptional. Ever since Kabul fell to Afghan rebel forces on April 25 in the climax to 14-year of civil war, the capital has been torn by violence.

Heavily-armed guerrilla groups and former government soldiers — in theory, all pledging allegiance to Afghanistan's new Islamic government — have divided the city into a patchwork of private fiefdoms.

"When I leave the house in the morning I never know if I will see my family again that night," said one shopkeeper.

No one is safe from the young men nursing automatic weapons and obscure grudges.

Foreign diplomats and aid workers have their vehicles stolen at gunpoint in broad daylight.

Civilians are beaten mercilessly with the butts of Kalashnikov rifles as armed men avenge ethnic or religious slights.

When a rumour starts in the morning — as it did most days

last week — that ethnic Hazaras, who are Shiite Muslims, are kidnapping Sunni Muslims Pashtuns, a wave of retaliatory kidnappings begins immediately.

By noon, dozens of innocent civilians will have been scooped off the street because of the way they look or the language they speak.

If the authorities mediate successfully, the hostages will be released. If the mediation fails, many hostages will be beaten, a few will be killed and fighting will begin in earnest somewhere in the city.

There are perhaps a dozen major armed groups in Kabul, divided by ethnicity, religion, language and politics.

But the fragmentation of the capital goes far beyond those broad categories.

In this city of perhaps two million people, there is a unique balance of terror for each block and every street.

Mr. Habib says the fighting in his neighbourhood centred on a house at the end of his street

## Progress on Saudi-Yemeni dispute seen unlikely soon

NICOSIA (AP) — Saudi Arabia and Yemen are unlikely to make meaningful progress in resolving their border dispute before the end of the year, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday.

The report by the weekly newsletter, published in Cyprus, came on the day that the two countries reportedly were scheduled to begin talks on the issue in Geneva.

But there were no immediate signs of such talks being convened and neither side made any announcements.

Tension between the two countries rose earlier this year when Riyadh sent letters to international oil companies operating in Yemen warning them against drilling in disputed border areas.

Relations already were strained because of Yemen's sympathy with Iraq during the Gulf crisis. Saudi Arabia retaliated by cutting off financial aid to its neighbour and expelling one million Yemeni workers.

In addition, Yemen got the cold shoulder from the oil-rich Gulf nations when it appealed for help to deal with an influx of tens of thousands of fellow Arab refugees fleeing war-torn Somalia.

MEES, which has good sources in the oil industry throughout the Middle East, said it understood that if a Saudi-Yemeni meeting is

held soon, "it will be mainly ceremonial in nature as a sign that both sides have good intentions and are ready to solve the issue amicably."

"However, it is doubtful that any meaningful talks concerning this very complicated issue can realistically take place before the end of the year at the earliest."

The newsletter pointed out that the country is still going through an official 2½-year transition period that followed the merger of North and South Yemen in May 1990.

The transition was to culminate with parliamentary elections this November and the formation of a new government, although Yemeni officials said recently the elections might be postponed.

Until then, Yemenis will be preoccupied with domestic politics, including a current wave of political violence in the country, the newsletter said.

A strong government will be required to deal with the border issue, but currently the alliance between the two ruling parties is weakening, MEES said.

It also said there was no truth in recent "press speculation" concerning the establishment of a neutral zone along the border, similar to an arrangement between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

## Greek Cypriots mark invasion anniversary

NICOSIA (AP) — Church bells tolled and flags flew at half mast throughout south Cyprus Monday as Greek Cypriots marked the 18th anniversary of the Turkish invasion that split the island.

During a special memorial service in St. John's Cathedral, Archbishop Chrysostomos prayed for the 4,000 dead and 1,600 missing Greek Cypriots and for the ending of the Turkish occupation.

This year's anniversary was being observed amid growing apprehension concerning a new round of U.N.-sponsored peace talks in New York for the reunification of the war-divided country in a two-zone federation.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has imposed a blackout on the talks he has been conducting since Wednesday with President George Vassiliou, the Greek Cypriot leader, and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş.

Anxiety over the success of the talks was fuelled following an overnight statement by Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis. "Up to this moment there is

complete refusal by Denktaş to abide by the United Nations demands," he told reporters in Greece.

Alexis Galanos, the president of Cyprus' House of Representatives, who is acting president in the absence of Mr. Vassiliou, also blamed Mr. Denktaş for the lack of progress in a speech during the memorial service.

He charged that by changing the demographic character of Cyprus through the importation of mainland settlers into the Turkish-occupied north, "the Turkish side is trying to legitimise the geographic division of Cyprus."

"It is aiming at a settlement that will have federation as its title but partition as its true content."

Turkey invaded and occupied 37 per cent of the island's territory in 1974 to protect the 18 per cent Turkish Cypriot minority in the wake of a short-lived Athens-backed coup by supporters of union with Greece.

U.N. resolutions demand cancellation of the establishment of a breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in the Turkish-occupied north.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Rebels say Baghdad using MIG fighters

DAMASCUS (R) — An Iraqi Shiite opposition group said on Sunday Iraqi government forces had launched a major offensive against rebels in southern Iraq using warplanes banned by the United Nations. The Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) said the attack, in which helicopters and heavy artillery were also used, was launched last Wednesday against areas around the southern city of Amara. SCIRI said rebels shot down a helicopter and killed more than 100 soldiers. The U.N. Security Council has ordered Iraq to stop using fixed wing planes after its defeat in the Gulf war in February 1991.

### Rafsanjani discusses Bosnia with Mock

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani and Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock discussed in Tehran Sunday the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and ways to promote ties between the countries. The official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as telling his guest that the world has not done enough to halt the bloodshed between Serbs and Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Mr. Mock, said the agency which is monitored in Nicosia, agreed with Mr. Rafsanjani. IRNA quoted the Austrian minister as saying "decisive stands" should be taken against Serbs, who make up one third of the 4.3 million population in the newly independent state. They are seeking to divide Bosnia-Herzegovina, where 45 per cent of the population is Muslim, into sectarian enclaves. Mr. Mock, who arrived Saturday, expressed hope that his visit to Iran would lead to expanding economic and political ties, IRNA said.

### Three suspects killed in Istanbul

ISTANBUL (AP) — Police killed three suspected leftist extremists during a raid on an apartment Monday, Istanbul's police chief announced. The three were killed in a shootout when police entered the house, chief Necdet Menzir said. He said they were members of the outlawed Turkish Labour and Peasants Liberation Army, a group that has claimed responsibility for numerous political murders in recent years, including those of top military officers, policemen and U.S. citizens.

### Sudan frees psychiatrist serving 15-year term

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's military ruler Omar Hassan Al-Bashir has ordered the release of a psychiatrist serving a 15-year jail term for working against the government, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported on Sunday. Charges against Ahmad Osman Siraj, sentenced last year, were unspecified. The chairman of the Sudanese Medical Association, Hassan Ghorashi, thanked the regime for releasing Mr. Siraj and said doctors supported the government in a fight against rebels.

### Sudan minister resigns in protest

CAIRO (R) — Sudan's labour minister has resigned and opposition sources said it was to protest against attacks by the Muslim-dominated government against its southern tribesmen. Labour Minister Father Kinga George confirmed his resignation to Reuters Sunday in Cairo, where he is now living, but declined to specify the reasons pending receipt of his letter of resignation sent on Saturday to Khartoum. "I will not go back to Sudan until things change there," Father George, one of only two southerners in the cabinet, added. Sudanese opposition sources said Father George came from a tribe near Kapoeta, recaptured by the government in a major offensive against rebels seeking autonomy for the Christian and animist south from the Muslim north. They said Father George had resigned because government troops were killing his people. Relief officials in Sudan have quoted refugees fleeing Kapoeta as saying pro-government militias slaughtered scores of civilians when they entered the town at the end of May. The government has vowed to continue its offensive despite capturing the rebels' main base at Toa earlier this month.

### Tajikistan airs Iranian television programmes

NICOSIA (R) — The head of Tajikistan's radio and television said on Monday the Farasi-speaking former Soviet republic was airing Iranian television shows and news bulletins. Tehran Radio reported that Mir-Baba Mir-Rahim, in Iran to discuss cultural exchanges, had said children's shows and other Iranian productions were also aired on Tajik Television. "Tajik intellectuals want people to learn to write Persian because this script is part of Tajikistan's historical heritage," Mr. Mir-Rahim told the radio in Tajik-accented Farsi. Iran is sending thousands of school books to the Central Asian republic reverting to Farsi script from the Cyrillic imposed by Moscow decades ago.

### Turkey grants citizenship to Ottoman heir

ANKARA (AP) — Making peace with its imperial past, republican Turkey has granted citizenship to the exiled last representative of the dynasty which ruled the Ottoman empire for six centuries, a newspaper reported Monday. The ailing 83-year-old pretender, who would have been named Sultan Orhan II had the Ottoman house still ruled, told the Istanbul paper Hurriyet that he was delighted the Turkish government was "allowing me to join my former subjects." Mehmed Orhan was quoted as saying: "I have lost my sight almost totally, my lungs are sick, requiring hospital treatment for three months every year. And to cap everything, a young girl recently ran over my foot with her car ... but Turkish citizenship made me forget everything." Orhan was given the surname Osmanoglu, the Turkish name for the dynasty, and an ordinary passport. Hurriyet said. The Foreign Ministry said the government granted citizenship to the prince last October and issued the passport in January.

### Mandela holds talks in Jeddah

JEDDAH (AP) — Black South African leader Nelson Mandela arrived Monday seeking the support of the Saudi Arabian leadership and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) for the rights of the black majority in his country. Mr. Mandela started talks with Hamid Al Ghabid, secretary-general of the Jeddah-based, 47-member organisation. His agenda includes a meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal and an audience with King Fahd, diplomats said.

## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 ... Les Aventures de Joe  
18:10 ... Documentary  
18:30 ... Marc et Sophie  
19:00 ... News in French  
19:15 ... Le Centre  
19:30 ... News in Hebrew  
20:00 ... News in Arabic  
21:00 ... Acropolis Now  
21:30 ... Mr. Bean  
21:50 ... The X-Files  
22:00 ... News in English  
22:30 ... Feature Film: "The Heart of Bernarda Alba"

### PRAYER TIMES

04:04 ... Fajr  
05:36 ... (Sunrise) Dhuhr  
12:42 ... Dhuhr  
16:22 ... Asr  
19:47 ... Maghreb  
21:19 ... Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifield, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.

## St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terranova Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 712611.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717751.

Assiout International Church Tel. 685326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932.

Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and east calm.

Amman ... Min./Max. temp. 14/27  
Aqaba ... 23/35

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Deserts ... 13/30

Jordan Valley ... 21/35

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 27, Aqaba 35. Humidity readings: Amman 55 per cent, Aqaba 34 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Fakhr Abu Tayeh ... 885880

Dr. Ahmad Othman ... 786348

Dr. Fakher Bilal ... 625778

Dr. Khalil Eidi ... 753392

Firas pharmacy ... 661912

Fordons pharmacy ... 778336

Al Asema pharmacy ... 637055

Nadwaka pharmacy ... 626272

Al Salam pharmacy ... 636750

Yacoub pharmacy ... 649485

Shmeisani pharmacy ... 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Mahmoud Khalil ... (—)

Al-Shura' pharmacy ... (273825)

ZARQA:

Dr. Youssef Awad ... (—)

Khalifah pharmacy ... 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ... 637111

Civil Defence Department ... 661151

Civil Defence Immediate ... 630441

Civil Defence Emergency ... 199

Rescue Police ... 192, 61111, 637777

Fire Brigade ... 891228

Blood Bank ... 775121





### King visits grandfather's tomb

AMMAN (J.T.) — On the 41st anniversary of the late King Abdullah I, His Majesty King Hussein visited the tomb of the late King Monday and recited verses of the Holy Quran.

Also visiting the tomb of the late King was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Royal Family members, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, cabinet members, speakers and members of the two houses of Parliament and other dignitaries.

The late King, who founded the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, is remembered for his national efforts at the domestic and pan-Arab levels and for unifying the West and East Banks of Jordan in 1950.

King Abdullah was assassinated while performing prayers at Al Aqsa Mosque in Arab Jerusalem in 1951.

### Saqqaf urges Bulgaria to up imports to balance trade

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Supply Mohammad Saqqaf Monday discussed with the Bulgarian ambassador in Amman economic relations between Sofia and Amman in general and Jordanian imports of Bulgarian food supplies in particular.

The minister noted that the balance of trade between the two countries favours Bulgaria, mainly in view of Jordan's huge imports of Bulgarian fresh meat. He called on the Bulgarian government to increase its imports of Jordanian phosphates in a bid to help adjust the balance of trade.

The ambassador extended an invitation to Mr. Saqqaf to visit Bulgaria for further economic and trade talks.

Bulgaria, along with Romania, Hungary and Yugoslavia, are among Eastern European countries importing limited amounts of Jordanian agricultural products.

ducts, according to Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) director general Salem Al Lawzi.

Dr. Lawzi was speaking at a meeting with Jordanian meat importers from Bulgaria and other Eastern European countries to discuss the possibility of using vehicles transporting meat to Amman from Europe to carry Jordanian agricultural products to the European markets.

Discussions at the meeting also covered contacts to be made with companies in Eastern Europe wishing to buy Jordanian vegetables and fruits to determine their needs of such commodities.

Agreement was reached at the meeting on maintaining contacts with concerned countries, and Dr. Lawzi said that AMO will maintain its cooperation with Jordanian exporters to increase exports to these countries.

### Stink, sewage and fumes of Zarqa studied at seminar

ZARQA (Petra) — Untreated waste water from factories and companies along the Zarqa River, together with car and factory fumes and the garbage dump at nearby Rusafa, are the major sources of pollution in the Zarqa governorate, said speakers at a one-day seminar organised by the Jordan Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution (JSCEP).

Zarqa Governor Mohammad Shobaki told the opening meeting that these pollutants are harming public health while the waste water treatment plant at Khirbet 'Al Samra is as a breeding ground for insects, which aggravate the situation.

The governor called for new ideas to speed up work on resolving environmental problems and to safeguard a clean and healthy environment.

The seminar was organised in cooperation with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation of Germany.

The JSCEP, in cooperation

with the German foundation, are joining hands to fight all elements that cause pollution to the environment, in the course of their activities they have to date organised 20 workshops to help spread public awareness on environment-related issues, said Dr. Rawhi Al Sharif, a society member.

The society and German foundation have also been keen on presenting special messages on Jordan Television designed to promote public awareness. The foundation representative at the meeting referred to the great number of cars on the roads as being the main source of pollution of the atmosphere. Walter Rödel called on the concerned authorities to encourage public transport including trains to reduce the amount of pollution of the environment.

Several speakers, including Ibrahim Badran, an advisor at the prime ministry, addressed the seminar, tackling the general pollution situation in Zarqa.

### Princess Basma to finance children's library in Madaba

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday announced she was financing the reconstruction of a children's library to be run by the Al Aqsa Charitable Society in Madaba, to be named after the late member of parliament Ahmad Azaidah.

She said that the library would be in recognition of the parliamentarians role in humanitarian services. He had served the charitable society as the board chairman of the society which is affiliated to the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QASF).

The Princess, QASF's board of trustees chairperson, made the announcement during her inspection of the charity's activities and programmes in Madaba. The Princess inspected the items displayed at a bazaar set up by the society which included many types of handicrafts by women

trainees and society members. The princess also inspected a training centre in tractor for the local women and was briefed on the programmes by training centre officials who said that the women are being trained to help them embark on income-generating projects.

Addressing the officials, the princess stressed the need for the formation of a committee that would take care of marketing products.

Among those accompanying the princess was district governor Mislak Tarawneh and parliament member Abdul Hafiz Allawi.

The princess was also briefed by Nawal Al Faouri, the society's president on the society's various activities to help improve the status of the local women in the local community.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### King Hussein congratulates Belgium

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable to King Baudouin of Belgium to congratulate him on his country's national day. King Hussein wished King Baudouin continued good health and happiness and the Belgian people further progress and prosperity.

#### Libyan envoy leaves

RAMTHA (Petra) — Libyan envoy Abdul Razzaq Sawasaa Monday ended a three-day visit to Jordan during which he met with the speakers of the Upper and Lower House of Parliament. In Ramtha prior to his departure to Syria, Mr. Sawasaa said the purpose of his visit was to thank Jordan and voice Libya's pride over the Kingdom's honourable stands on Arab issues, especially regarding threats against Libya.



A view of Karak castle

### Ministry surveying ancient sites in Karak — urges private sector help

KARAK (J.T.) — The Ministry of Tourism is conducting a general survey of the archaeological and touristic sites in the governorate of Karak in southern Jordan and will be ready to cooperate with the private sector in this respect, according to Minister of Tourism Yanal Hikmat.

Speaking during an inspection visit to the Karak castle where renovation and restoration at the site is underway, Mr. Hikmat said that the ministry will prepare a more informative booklet on the Karak Castle, which would detail its history.

In May last year, the Ministry of Tourism and antiquities announced the allocation of JD 100,000 to restore the interior parts of the ancient castle as part of a comprehensive plan to restore and renovate the site.

Karak castle "Krac de moba-ites" was built by the crusaders in 1143 as an outpost of their kingdom. Its massive stone vaultings are considered as one of the finest examples of crusader architecture.

The restoration entails improving the condition of the approaches to the castle and the front yard, and to the first and second floors. Restoration will also include "building the stairs and the reconstruction of the stone walls at the sides and in the interior sections."

Restoration work is being done at the castle by a team from the Department of Antiquities and the Natural Resources Authority (NRA).

In a statement at the site Monday, Mr. Hikmat urged the pri-

rate sector to invest in the tourism industry, pledging that the ministry was willing to support projects aimed at protecting and safeguarding archaeological and historic sites in the Kingdom.

Department of Antiquities Director Safwan Al Tell who accompanied the minister on the inspection tour, said that the restoration work was bound to help give the ancient site a facelift, attracting more and more visitors and at the same time preserving the ancient sites as treasures for Jordan.

The minister and Dr. Tell inspected the work on the restoration of the castle museum near the castle which displays artefacts dating back to various ages. He later called at the Al Qasr district where the main museum is located.

### Jordan and Germany to sign minutes allocating DM 20 million in aid for 1992

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Federal Republic of Germany and Jordan will sign Tuesday minutes of three-days of deliberations on bilateral cooperation in economic and technical fields for the next two years.

Periodic consultations and discussion started Sunday and are scheduled to end Tuesday with the signing of agreed minutes, said a press release from the

German embassy in Amman Monday.

Germany allocated DM 20 million for technical cooperation with Jordan for 1992 and DM 35 million for financial cooperation. The consultations set a programme of projects to be implemented mainly in the agricultural and water sectors, as well as in vocational training, the press release noted.

A delegation representing the German side in the consultations is headed by Gert Robert Liptau, head of the Middle East section in the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation. He is accompanied by Rolf Krause from the Foreign office, Franz Joseph Von Autlock, Kreditanstalt Fur Wiederaufbau (KfW) and Dedo Geinitz, from GTZ, the department responsible for technical cooperation.

### Crown Prince praises '92' summer olympiads

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan met at South Shuneh in the Jordan Valley with the Jordanian national team participating in the summer Olympics in Barcelona starting July 25.

The Prince was reassured about the preparations and training of the participants who trained in special camps in Taiwan. He urged the athletes to raise the name of Jordan high among the participating nations.

At the meeting, attended by Youth Minister Saleh Isheidat, the Crown Prince praised the efforts of the Youth Ministry and the Jordan Olympic Committee for training athletes. He underlined the importance of the Barcelona gathering as the world's major sports event.

Eight Jordanian athletes are taking part in the Barcelona Olympics and will compete in

target shooting, table tennis, athletics, and taekwondo. In his address to the participants, the Crown Prince reviewed the Jordanian sports movement and the aspirations of the Jordanian youths towards attaining advanced standards in sports fields.

He urged concerned authorities to reintroduce school sports which he described as serving as a nucleus in promoting national sports activities.

He also urged the concerned authorities to adopt a national strategy to promote the sports movement in the country.

Dr. Isheidat thanked the prince and said that his Ministry continues to give due concern to sports and youth movements.

The sport teams going to Barcelona will be accompanied by a team of administrators and coaches. (see related story on page six).

### الشركة الهندية الاردنية للتكنولوجيا

Indo-Jordan Chemicals Company Ltd  
A Joint Venture Of SPIC, India & JPMC, Jordan

#### BID ANNOUNCEMENT

Indo-Jordan Chemicals Co. Ltd. announces bid No. IJC-E-001 for the supply of complete 33 KV power equipment for their plant site at Eshidiya - Jordan with the following main features:

- 3000 metres of 33 KV unearthed XLPE insulated armoured cable, and other cables.
- 33 KV indoor VCB Panel
- 500 KVA, 33/0.4 KV step down transformer
- 380V medium voltage 800 a switchboard

Detailed specification as per bid documents could be obtained from the head office against non-refundable amount of JD (50) at the following address:

Delmon Building, Third Floor  
Behind Ministry of Trade and Industry  
Shmeisani - Amman

Phone number: (685732)  
Fax number (685730)

Closing date for submission of bid is 1200 hrs, August 6th, 1992.

## Call for oil and arms embargo on Iran issued; Arabiyat disowns it

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter  
AMMAN — Several groups of leftist and Arab national political activists and individuals have issued a joint call on the United Nations Security Council to impose an arms and oil embargo against Iran for attacking a camp of Iranian dissidents in Iraq last April. The call was immediately disowned by Parliament.

A statement released by Lower House members Abdul Karim Dughmi, Mohammad Fares Tarawneh and Mansour Saifuddin Murad also accused the Iranian government of violating the human rights of the Iranian people and urged U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to seek Security Council action against Tehran.

House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat, in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the call did not represent a formal or informal move by the House.

Dr. Arabiyat, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood which maintains cordial relations with the Iranian government, said that he had not seen any such memorandum; the House had neither discussed the subject nor issued any statement.

"We in Jordan seek to settle differences and unite the (Islamic) Umma against the dangers that threaten its existence and future," the speaker said, raising questions about the purpose and timing of the anti-Iranian call.

"We reject any foreign interference in the affairs of the Islamic affair..." he said.

According to Sunday's communiqué, six Upper House and 29 Lower House members were among the signatories to the call. Other signatories were described as "political personalities."

Conspicuously absent was any member of the Muslim Brotherhood bloc in Parliament, and, according to informed sources, the movement was not approached by the sponsors of the statement.

"We are not aware of any such statement or of any approach to the Brotherhood bloc for endorsement," said Amman Deputy Hammam Saeed, a prominent member of the movement.

Dr. Saeed declined any com-



Mohammad Tarawneh

ment on the substance of the call saying "we have to see the actual contents before saying anything about it."

Mr. Tarawneh, a deputy from Karak, cited several principles which he said were behind his stance in taking a leading position in the call for international action against Iran.

These include "the absence of democracy in Iran and the government's violation of human rights and its oppressive internal policies against the people of Iran."

"The Iranian government represents neither the people of Iran nor their aspirations," Mr. Tarawneh said, condemning the Tehran regime for its eight-year war with Iraq. "The Iranian government's claims of being Islamic and of battling world imperialism are hollow."

The full list of those issuing the call against Iran was not immediately available. The Jordan Times learnt that leftist groups and activists had taken the lead in formulating the statement. While the absence of the Brotherhood could be attributed to the religious-oriented position of the fundamentalist group, other deputies appeared to have stayed away for varying reasons, including their sensitive position as members of the Cabinet. Ten house members are ministers in the government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

Saleem Zoubi, a pan-Arab nationalist deputy from Irbid, said he was approached for endorsement of the call but refused, saying that he opposed any call for an embargo on any country.

"While I condemn the human rights violations in Iran and the Iranian attack on the (Mujahadeen), I cannot support a call for international sanctions against any country since I oppose the sanctions imposed against Iraq," Mr. Zoubi explained in a telephone interview with the Jordan Times Monday.

Among the signatories to the statement were Senate members Omar Nabulsi and Hossni Ayesh, deputies Deeb Marji (Irbid), Ibrahim Ghisabshah (Tafilah), Hossni Shihab (Irbid), Fakhr Kassar (Balqa) and Saad Haddadin (Madaba), according to Mujahadeen sources. No confirmation was immediately available from the parliamentarians named by the source.

According to the source, others included "leading writers, trade union activists and leaders of professional associations." Again the source did not provide names.

The statement said: "As different countries of the world strive towards the establishment of peace democracy and international cooperation, the mullahs ruling Iran continue their policies in violating of international standards and laws."

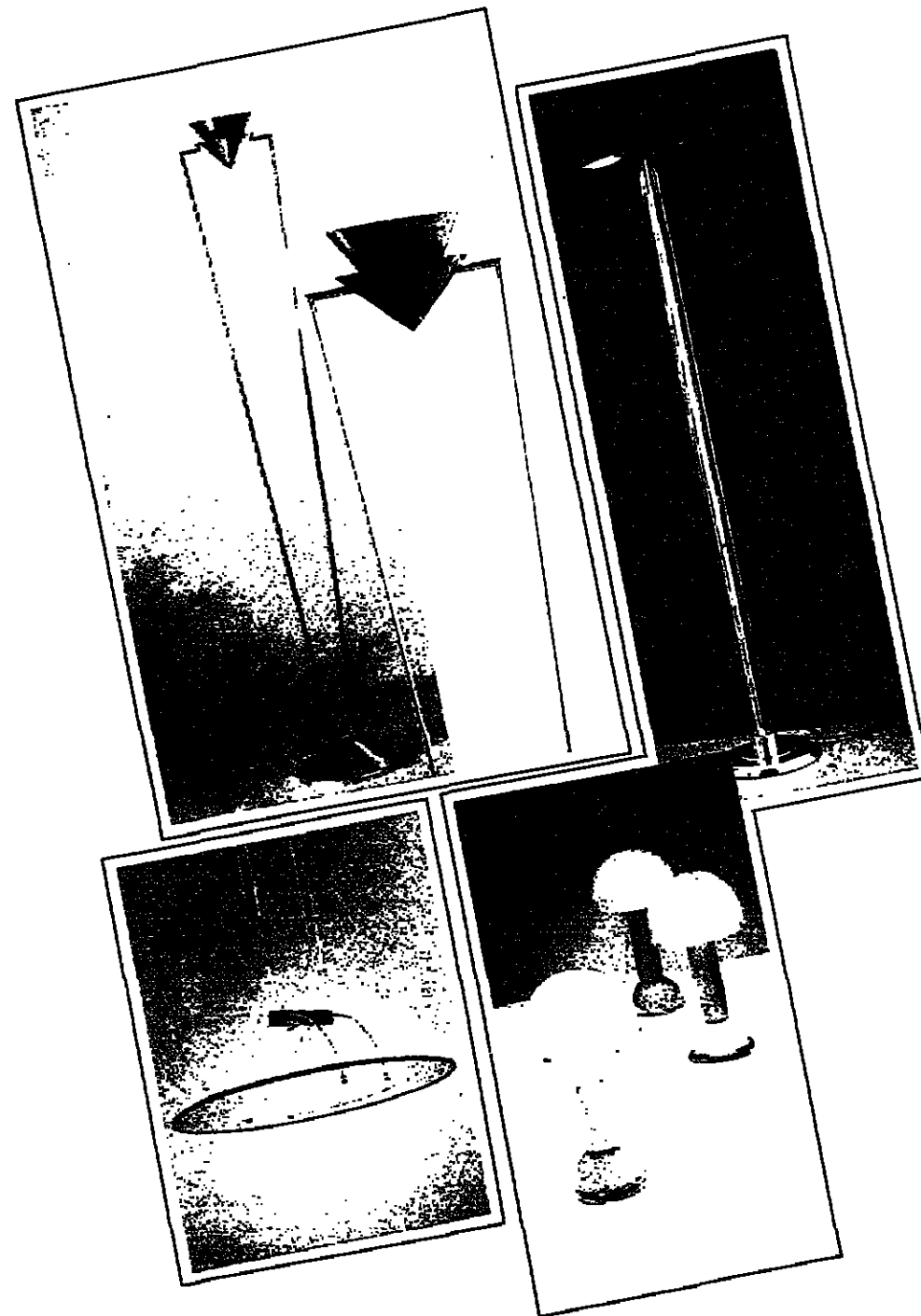
"The violations... took on serious dimensions when on April 5 the regime's air force breached international borders and bombed one of the bases of the National Liberation Army of Iran (Mujahadeen) deep inside Iraqi territory... this action shows the regime's fear of the resistance on the one hand and, noting its campaign to procure nuclear weapons, reflects a serious threat to peace and stability in the region on the other..."

"The extremely sensitive situation in the region makes a resolute response by the international community against the Iranian regime imperative. The special role of the U.N. Security Council in current world affairs makes it incumbent on the council to condemn the Iranian regime... and impose an oil and arms embargo on the regime before the region is once again engulfed by an all-embracing crisis..."

Statements along the same lines have been issued by parliamentarians in Europe, the United States and Canada, reflecting what many political observers describe as growing Western concern over Iranian intentions and the inroads that the diplomatically aggressive Mujahadeen have made into international political circles.

## AL-NUMAN ENGINEERING & TRADING

We Are Tomorrow



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## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.  
Established 1975  
الصحف اليومية العربية المستقلة المنشورة بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:  
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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.  
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the  
Jordan Times advertising department.

## U.S. back in game

U.S. SECRETARY of State James Baker's itinerary in the Middle East has double vision in the sense that the eyes of U.S. President George Bush are focused now on basically two objectives. The first is the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict; or, at least, to make substantial movement in that direction before the November presidential contest. The second is to attain a spectacular success in the peace effort that would improve Mr. Bush's chances for re-election. With Mr. Bush trailing behind Bill Clinton, the Democratic presidential candidate, in opinion polls Mr. Bush probably needs to show some success in the area which would enhance his electability somehow. Having failed to move the American economy forward, Mr. Bush has temporarily lost the domestic battle to his opponent Clinton, who is succeeding in convincing American voters that their woes and hardships would have a chance of being resolved only at the hands of his party. In retrospect, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's return to power was engineered partly by the White House with the U.S. presidential elections also in mind. The way the issue of the \$10 billion loan guarantees was dealt with suggests that the Bush administration desired the downfall of Yitzhak Shamir's government with a view to increase the chances for achieving a breakthrough in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Now Washington feels dutybound to deliver on its promise to reconsider the Israeli request for the loan guarantees by appearing to be moving in the direction of agreeing to comply with the Israeli application for it. In this context, Washington aims to accomplish two things at the same time. One is to improve in a dramatic way the opportunities for the settlement of the Palestinian problem; and the other to win back some of the Jewish vote that has leaned more forcefully than ever before in direction of the Democratic ticket. There is no wonder in the fact then that Mr. Rabin lost little time in issuing one policy statement after the other purporting to show a change of heart in Israel on the Israeli settlement programme in anticipation of Mr. Baker's trip to the area.

There is no doubt that Washington will in turn respond positively to Mr. Rabin's overtures on the "limited" freeze on settlement building in order to strengthen President Bush's hands in his re-election campaign. Yet with the U.S. economy still in recession Mr. Bush will probably find it difficult to sell such change of policy towards Israel unless spectacular success is achieved in the peace process. Even then the American voter will not be easily convinced in view of the fact there are more voices within the various American constituencies calling for diverting more of the U.S. foreign aid to domestic concerns. By consenting to the Israeli demand for the \$10 billion loan guarantee, President Bush and his administration would in effect be sailing against the existing American tide and may still cost the Republicans a big defeat in November no matter how much the chief executive tries to mend fences with the Jewish voters. According to a scenario that is gaining currency throughout, the Israelis will in fact get their loan guarantees but that will not help Mr. Bush get re-elected in November. The choice is naturally that of the U.S. president. But he has to remember that he is not alone in all of this.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily said Monday that Secretary of State James Baker's visit to the region comes only two days after the Israeli authorities evicted six Palestinians from their homeland with no word of criticism for Israel's action on the part of the U.S. administration. The Bush administration did not even bother to issue a false statement deploring the deportation act and the U.S. administration did not even feel obliged to defend the so-called new world order by issuing at least a false statement defending human rights, the paper said. It said that Mr. Baker cannot convince the Arabs that Mr. Rabin's success in the elections came as a result of American pressure and new U.S. policies designed to achieve peace in the Middle East since everyone realises that Mr. Baker is coming to win Israel's favour and support from the Zionist lobby in the U.S. for Mr. Bush's bid to get a second term in the White House. The Arabs cannot expect any help from the Americans who continue to show their contempt of and hatred towards the Arabs and continue to starve the Iraqis, said the daily. It said that Mr. Baker's mission is indeed difficult because his trip comes at a time when Mr. Bush is not doing well in the presidential campaign; he realises, as the Arabs do, that his trip is to win the Israelis' favour and not that of the Arabs. It is clear that Mr. Baker will primarily be aiming to win Jewish votes in the coming elections rather than give impetus to the stalled peace process, the paper added. Mr. Baker realises too well that it is Israel which is blocking the path of peace through its intransigence and disregard of the U.N. Security Council resolutions, it said.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily said that Mr. Baker's tour of the troubled Middle East region was a move by President Bush in order to win credibility as a man of peace in the eyes of the American public. It is to be understood that Mr. Bush is not favoured by the American public and that he had lost much of his popularity since the Gulf war, said Bader Abdul Haq. The writer said that probably this will be Mr. Baker's last tour in the region and no real progress has yet been achieved in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. This tour could, however, be historic if the U.S. secretary succeeded in breaking the current deadlock towards arriving at peace formula acceptable to the Arabs and the Israelis, said the writer. But one should admit that Mr. Baker's visit is not aimed primarily at helping the Arabs and the Israelis to attain peace as it is rather a trip to brighten the image of the Bush administration before the world and so gain more votes from the American Jews for the U.S. President who is currently facing strong rivalry in the race to the White House, said the writer. In this light, one can predict that Mr. Baker might offer the Jews the loan guarantees they demanded and could be exerting pressure on the Arabs to offer concessions to the Israelis, he added. But, he said Mr. Baker is certain to hear firm and unequivocal statements from the Arab parties involved in the peace process and, therefore, his mission in the region remains in the balance.

### The View from Fourth Circle

## The moment of truth is at hand

literally today, Tuesday, July 21, 1992 — because Mr. Baker is here with ideas and suggestions about how to achieve the peace that we all say we want.

**"The symbols of Arab acceptance of Israel, and Israel's ultimate integration into the Middle East as a natural and organic part of this area, provide us with the most important cards to play in the negotiations."**

Th Arabs in general, and the Palestinians in particular, must urgently snap out of the largely deferential, and responsive posture that has characterised their diplomacy to date, and go on the offensive. This means we should make our national demands attractive — even inescapable — to the Israelis and Americans, by linking them with the most important Israeli demands and desires. Which means, once again, that we have to know exactly what the Israelis fear, need, desire, and dream about.

The Israelis have two basic obsessions: security, and acceptance by the Arabs. Everything else is derivative, or inconsequential. Their obsession with security and acceptance is understandable: Jews were the subject of repeated episodes of wholesale discrimination, subjugation, or even death in many parts of the Western world in the last 500 years, and their whole Zionist endeavour in Palestine is a response to their problems with assimilation around the world.

**"We are at the historic point now where Arabs and Israelis are negotiating about the practicalities of coexistence, mutual security guarantees and a new Middle Eastern order in which Israel lives as one of many equal states in the region. Symbolic gestures will not be enough to make true progress in the peace talks."**

Consequently, acceptance by the Arab World is a powerful need in the Israeli psyche. This is why Israel and the United States place such emphasis on what are known as "confidence-building measures", or CBMs, such as the relaxation of the Arab boycott of Israel, telephone communication, and other such gestures. The Israelis are confident they can protect themselves militarily — at least for now — but they have a deep craving for acceptance in the Middle East as one of the natural states in the area.

It seems to me, therefore, that the symbols of Arab acceptance of Israel, and Israel's ultimate integration into the Middle East as a natural and organic part of this area, provide us with the most important cards to play in the negotiations. This is why, for example, Mr. Rabin is so keen to meet Arab leaders and to visit

Arab capitals. He and his people desperately need a sign from us that not only do we accept to coexist with them, but also that we will have normal relations with them, as we do with other Arab states or with non-Arab Middle Eastern states such as Iran, Cyprus, or Turkey.

The last nine months have been important to make the psychological transition to being able to negotiate face-to-face with the Israelis. This has been, in retrospect, a relatively easy process, almost cost-free in every area except perhaps that of political psychology. The Israelis and Arabs have made only symbolic concessions to date by accepting to negotiate with one another on the basis of principles that are deliberately vague. Now the hard part begins. As we work to get back our lands and rights, what are we prepared to give the Israelis, and what will they give us?

In this context, we have to be very careful yet also very bold in offering to implement CBMs. We should formulate a list of CBMs that addresses the deep Israeli need for recognition and acceptance, while forcing the Israelis to realise that we will accept them only when they accept to withdraw from Arab lands and coexist with a sovereign Palestinian state. Instead of our constantly being forced to respond to Israeli and American overtures, we would be more effective if we could take the offensive and make offers that are attractive to Arabs as well as to Israelis.

This is the moment to strike forcefully with a diplomatic offensive that compels Israel to respond to our national rights and the will of the international community. The extraordinary centrality and importance of CBMs to Israel should not be underestimated, and their diplomatic force should not be allowed to dissipate in a fog of Israeli obfuscation or American television lights. We should offer CBMs, however, as part of a strict diplomatic process that brings us real gains in return.

We are at the historic point now where Arabs and Israelis are negotiating about the practicalities of coexistence, mutual security guarantees, and a new Middle Eastern order in which Israel lives as one of many equal states in the region. Symbolic gestures will not be enough to make true progress in the peace talks. The moment of truth is at hand. Real and substantial concessions will have to be made very soon, in return for which we can expect to achieve the Palestinian and Arab rights we have struggled for during most of this century. The principles of Resolution 242's central premise of exchanging land-for-peace will soon be translated into practical acts. The political and psychological reality of such an eventuality will require a major leap forward in our ability to see the Israelis as permanent and peaceful neighbours — and also in their ability to coexist with a Palestinian state, as an Israeli state whose borders and ambitions are defined and contained once and for all.

We must not fall into the negative trap of feeling that we are making all the concessions. The Israeli need for acceptance by the Arabs is so powerful that it will prompt them to make equally substantive concessions — if we frame our offers intelligently and realistically. We should be able to use this to our advantage, and for the future benefit of all the people of this region who aspire to live in a state of justice and peace.

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## School Arabisation stirs controversy

## Campaign against Arabs, Islam?

Earlier this year, The Times of London ran an article by Christopher Walker, its Cairo correspondent, on the spread of Islamic fundamentalism and the pressure it exerts on Arab universities to teach in Arabic only. The paper, in an editorial in the same issue, expressed its own views on the subject, concluding

that 'teaching science in Arabic has everything to do with Islamic politics.' In answer to these articles, Professor Mahmoud Ibrahim, on behalf of the Jordan Academy of Arabic, wrote a letter to the editor, which The Times never published. Following are the texts of the three articles:

Original article in Times

## Academics resist pressure for Arabic-only teaching

From Christopher Walker in Cairo

The spread of Islamic fundamentalism is increasing pressure on Arab universities to teach all courses only in Arabic, raising fears of academic isolation from the rest of the world. Islamic militants claim that Arabic, language of the Koran, has endless depth and can handle new sciences and terminology. But the move is being strongly resisted by many academics and moderate Muslims.

Until the recent explosion of Islamic fervour, scientific subjects in most of the 20 member states of the Arab League were taught in English or French. The arts are taught in Arabic. Abrupt transformation with little preparation have been ordered in Algeria and Sudan the countries

where fundamentalism is spreading most quickly.

Universities in Algeria were ordered recently to teach only in Arabic, a few months after the Islamic fundamentalist movement secured the enactment of a law banning the use of French in government and business transactions. In spite of fines of up to £2,500, the ban is being widely ignored.

The difficulties are more serious in Sudan, the backward country being used by Iran as the main spring-board for spreading fundamentalism. The military junta issued an edict last September banning teaching in anything but Arabic. That has been a crippling academic problem because six million of the 26 million Sudanese are black, non-Muslim southerners who mostly speak

English or tribal languages and have no Arabic.

Tunisia has introduced Arabic-only education, but only to the age of about 15. For the moment, sciences have been exempted and will still be taught in French. Bahrain has published a plan for making the conversion which has not been implemented so far. The campaign is being resisted fiercely in moderate Arab countries such as Egypt and Jordan.

The fierce debate over language for education follows the recent seizure of books at the Cairo International Book Fair by Muslim clerics. In an unprecedented response, the impounded seven religious books by Egypt's highest Muslim institute was overturned on the orders of President Mubarak, who opposes the fundamentalists.

I read the article written by Christopher Walker from Cairo and published by the London Times on 22/1/1992 under the title: "Academics resist pressure for Arabic-only teaching." My Academy and I will be thankful to you if you publish in your esteemed paper the following:

— Arabic is a standard, and not a dead, classical language. Incidentally it is the only original language, as far as I know, which is still being used and understood in a holy book pertaining to the three divine religions. Further, correct, and not, classical Arabic, is the language presently used in all written material and documents throughout the Arab world, and it is the official language in the information media in all Arab countries.

— All members of the Arab academies, including Christian Arabs and non-practising Muslims, call for the use of this standard Arabic in teaching all sorts of sciences. It is not the "fundamentalists" alone who call for "Arabic — only teaching."

— The Jordan Academy of Arabic alone had so far translated 18 science books and other academics have translated much more than this number. No real difficulty was encountered. In fact the Jordan Academy of Arabic meets each week for the purpose of Arabising technical and scientific terms and it does not find the process unusual or impossible. All the Syrian universities teach all subjects in Arabic

and this never created a real problem for Syrian graduates. About thirty technical or scientific dictionaries have been compiled in English-Arabic or French-Arabic and they are being utilised for the purpose of Arabising.

— After a very long experience in university teaching, I find it more beneficial and easier to students to learn all sciences via their national tongue. Special tests have been conducted and they showed the same conclusion.

The use of Arabic in teaching does not in anyway preclude benefiting from books written in any foreign language which the students can read and comprehend. This is a general rule, not restricted to the countries of the "Third World."

— The Arab World constitutes geographically a compact "block" extending from the Gulf to the Atlantic. The Arab population in these countries is no less than 200 million people. We academicians, and others too, deem that it is only natural that Arab university students in this "block" should receive their education in their national tongue. As you may recall, Arabic was the vehicle that carried Greek lore one time to Europe.

— In America lives a multitude of races who used to speak their own national languages in their countries before they migrated to America. Yet, through American education, they came to use one foreign language — the English

language — and adopted this "foreign" language as their own national language.

— I wish that the writer of the fore-mentioned article were aware of the intrinsic features of standard Arabic. He would then have known that it is a rich, inflectional and flexible language which did give to other languages and took from these languages. It is still capable of taking and giving — perhaps more than any other language. English is not an exception. Further, it had a broad experience in the history of culture and civilisation.

— When reading such articles, an educated Arab wonders why the writer did not think of other languages spoken by tiny populations in different countries, and used in their universities, though they do not possess the features of Arabic and its flexibility. Is it a western campaign against Arabs and Islam? Why did not the writer think, for instance, of Israel and the Hebrew language used in Israeli universities?

— For your information, I am not a fundamentalist, and I received my education in an English university, the University of London.

It is common knowledge that Arabic is the sixth official language used at the U.N. and all the agencies and ramifications related thereto.

Professor Mahmoud Ibrahim, Jordan Academy of Arabic, Amman.

Times' editorial

## Symbolic equations

Arab scholars. But the word first occurs in Greek. It has more to do with pouring and infusion, which is what the early Greek chemists did with plant juices, than with fanciful Arabic etymologies.

That most of the world uses "Arabic" numerals for its sums does not make Arabic a peculiarly numerate language. These numerals were taken from classical Arabic of the period up to the 13th century, the antique basis of modern standard Arabic and of the many colloquial dialects that

have sprung from it. The original Arabic numerals can still be recognised in the script of Morocco, for example the figure for eight at least if they are turned on their sides or upside down. But for the past eight centuries the Arabs of the Middle East have used a different Indian system of numbering.

The Arab scholars of the dark ages in Spain were undoubtedly great and a vital link to the wisdom of the past. But their algebra, science and geography were primitive and their language

was not peculiarly scientific. There are 28 consonants in Arabic, the great majority of which have four printed forms, depending on whether the letter stands alone, at the beginning, middle or end of a word. Its numeration is immensely complex and a devil to print. Attempts to teach in Arabic at some Middle Eastern medical schools have been a dangerous disaster.

Any language can be adapted to do anything, if enough people need to use it. But science should be above linguistic

chauvinism. Most of the essential texts and journals in science are published in English. Scientific terms can be translated into the dialects of Arabic only by translation or clumsy circumlocution. In scholarship as in other matters, the tunnel-vision of Islamic fundamentalists is leading them back to the dark ages from which their broad-minded ancestral sages and savants helped to rescue Europe. Teaching science in Arabic has everything to do with Islamic politics and nothing with the advancement of learning.

## Progress in Baker talks

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Baker made nine trips to Israel after the Gulf war to get former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's government and the Arabs to enter negotiations in Madrid last October on ending their 44-year-old conflict.

Mr. Baker said he shared Mr. Rabin's optimism about advancing peace and believed he had made progress also in talks with the Palestinian leaders.

Palestinians have welcomed Mr. Rabin's readiness to negotiate on self-rule for the 1.75 million Arabs in the occupied territories by next year and said Mr. Rabin's suspension of the hard-line Shamir's settlement drive was a step forward.

Mr. Baker also met three times Monday with Mr. Rabin, who was to fly to Cairo the next day to meet President Hosni Mubarak in the first Israeli-Egyptian summit since 1986.

Meanwhile, Mr. Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc filed a motion of no-confidence in parliament over the settlements and Mr. Rabin's other peace moves.

The motion, backed by smaller opposition factions, is to be voted on next week. Mr. Rabin has 67 votes in parliament, including Arab legislators, in the 120-member parliament.

Dr. Ashrawi acknowledged that "there is a shift in tone in the new Israeli government and a willingness to engage in a meaningful transfer of authority and serious elections."

She said it was now up to Israel to back the statements with actions, and that only then the Palestinians could and would respond with confidence-building measures of their own.

"The Palestinian side has paid in advance. We have paid by entering a peace process with the most hardline racist government in Israel," she said, referring to the opening of peace talks during Mr. Shamir's leadership.

The Palestinians and Mr. Baker agreed that negotiations should be held at a more accelerated pace and get to substantive issues, Dr. Ashrawi said.

She said the Palestinians did not receive a pledge from Mr. Baker to link the loan guarantees to Israel to a complete settlement freeze.

Mr. Rabin hopes to revive the loan guarantees to help absorb Jewish immigrants. President George Bush had turned down Israel's request because Mr. Shamir refused to halt building settlements in the occupied territories.

Mr. Baker arrived in Israel on Sunday for a two-day visit before flying to Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

After meeting Mr. Rabin on Sunday, Mr. Baker said he would tell the Arabs that Mr. Rabin was serious about limiting Jewish settlement.

Mr. Rabin's cabinet on Sunday suspended all new settlements pending further study.

### Settlement bid foiled

Israeli forces Monday ousted dozens of Kach members trying to establish a new settlement, security sources said.

Kach movement leader Baruch Marzel said the attempt to found a settlement was "related to Baker's trip and the government's decision to stop settlements."

About 45 members of the anti-Arab movement moved into an ancient synagogue in the West Bank town of Jericho early on Monday, Mr. Marzel said. Police and soldiers discovered them and removed them two hours later, security sources said.

Attempts to found new settlements have marked several of Mr. Baker's nine previous visits to Israel since the Gulf war.

Kach is one of Israel's most radical ultra-nationalist factions. It was banned from the Israeli election last month on grounds that it was racist and anti-democratic.

Security for Mr. Baker was stepped up after police received a message the movement planned to attack him during the visit.

Syrian newspapers said Monday Israel's freeze on building new settlements in the occupied territories was aimed only at placating Washington.

The Al Baath daily said Israel's decision was made only to obtain the sought-for loan guarantees.

"Note the word 'freeze,'" said Al Baath. "This means that after (Israel) has received the loans it could go back to building settlements, and on a much wider scale."

"All the remarks Mr. Rabin has made do not express a real willingness to reach a comprehensive and just peace in the area, but rather aim at misleading Arab and international public opinion, so that Israel will get whatever it wants from America and the West, especially the loan guarantees," said Al Baath.

Another daily, Tishrin, said the proposals of Mr. Rabin's government did not alleviate Arab fears.

## Islamists assail Baker mission

(Continued from page 1)

the Palestinians of their sovereignty and freedom, making the Palestinians residents of Jewish hotels in the so-called land of Israel, drinking Israeli water, and protected by the occupation army, with the Jewish state taking charge of their foreign affairs," the statement said.

It said that it is "regrettable to see that those shirking their responsibilities are fervent supporters of such Jewish schemes, ready and willing to take part in signing ceremonies, enthusiastic about elections and are demanding seats that have no legs and no ground on which to rest."

"Appalled at these developments and in view of this situation, the Muslim Brotherhood bloc in Parliament has no alternative but to sound the alarm and openly declare its position in the following points," the statement said.

"We condemn Baker's visit to

the region and that of Rabin to Egypt and we refuse a situation in which the holy Palestinian cause becomes a ball shifting in the hands of international conspiracies and Jewish deceit. We refuse to see the sacred cause of Palestine transformed into part of (U.S. President George) Bush's re-election campaign.

"We warn the nation, including the Palestine people, against Rabin's acts of deception and those of his Labour Party and all the Jewish parties. We demand that the nation examine the Israeli parties' practice in Palestine against the Palestinian people and to beware of crocodile tears."

"We appeal to the people of Egypt to prevent Rabin from entering Egypt and to play a historic role in supporting the Palestinian cause and people. We call on the Egyptians not to allow their country to serve as a gate for the autonomy rule and Jewish deception."

"We urge the nation and the Palestinians to reject all capitulatory schemes and plans, including the so-called autonomy rule, and to reject the autonomy-rule elections because they are part of the conspiracy to consecrate the loss of Palestine and the rights of future generations."

"We appeal to our Palestinian people to confront the conspiratorial plans with united ranks and to protect national unity, avoiding any in-fights which can only serve the Jews' interest."

"We appeal to the people of Palestine to pursue their intifada and to protect it from conspiracies aimed at selling out the land to Rabin and his like. We demand that the nation extend a helping hand to the uprising so that it can be escalated and given more power."

"Long live free Arab and Muslim Palestine."

"Baker should go home."

"Down with all Jewish and international conspiracies."

"May God preserve the blood of the mujahideen in confronting the enemy."



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## Unemployment

(Continued from page 1)

legalised foreign workers continued to be the major work force in construction and other blue-collar jobs. They are not included in the employment figures.

Over the past 45 days the Ministry of Labour has offered all of Jordan's estimated 100,000 illegal workers, most from Egypt and Syria, the chance to get permits instead of forcing them to leave.

About 70,000 have accepted, bringing the treasury over JD 5 million in fees.

Most work in jobs such as construction and field work for wages as low as JD 1 a day.

The ministry has also stepped up controls on employers, fining those who continue to employ foreigners illegally, and has worked with Egypt and Syria to keep track of the employees.

Mr. Kabariti said Jordan was still trying to find ways to encourage unemployed citizens to take blue collar jobs and to ease unemployment among university and college graduates.

Social taboos on manual labour and the tendency of families to support unemployed members prevent many from accepting jobs below their expectations, he said.

### Over 80 held

(Continued from page 1)

their guns to disperse the rioters in the Islamic bastion of Hussein Dey, one of at least half a dozen districts in the city shaken by violence.

FIS militants have been protesting against the jailing last week of their leaders, notably Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, who were each sentenced to 12 years by a military court.

A former elected FIS mayor in Lakhdaria, hunted since last February when a state of emergency was imposed, surrendered to the government on Sunday, the agency added.

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## Al Ramtha regains top spot in Jordan soccer championship

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Top teams are finally getting down to business in the second round of soccer's first division championship as the contest for the title draws nearer.

This week Al Ramtha regained their lead in the standings while Al Hussein, dropped back to second place followed by Al Faisali and Al Wihdat in third and fourth places with only a point difference, indicating the importance of scoring wins in the upcoming week.

Al Ramtha took the lead from Al Hussein after their big win of 5-1 over Al Arabi.

Al Ramtha were clearly in control of the match and striker Khaled Al Agouri was the star of the day as he scored four of his team's five goals.

Agouri scored Al Ramtha's first goal in the 14th minute followed by a penalty kick in the 32nd minute and a third goal minutes later which gave Al Ramtha a commanding 3-0 lead.

Badran Al Shaqran scored

the fourth goal in the 73rd minute. Al Arabi's Abdul Salam Zeinati scored his team's face-saving only goal in the 87th minute. Agouri went on to score the fifth goal in the 90th minute giving Al Ramtha a 5-1 win and a two point lead over Al Hussein in the overall standings.

In another match attended by over 15,000 fans at Al Hussein Youth City, Al Wihdat scored a convincing 2-0 victory over Al Ahli who dropped to sixth place.

Al Wihdat, with the clear understanding that winning was vital to keep them among the teams bidding for the title, attacked from the beginning and had it not been for the alertness of Al Ahli goalkeeper, Ahmad Abu Daoud, Al Wihdat might have scored a bigger win.

Al Ahli's defence seemed incoherent as Al Wihdat lost many chances before Marwan Al Shamali scored their first goal in the 28th minute. Al Ahli's Walied Fatafah and Mohammad Al Joker lost a few equalising chances before

Al Wihdat's Hisham Abdul Mun'em scored the second goal in the 64th minute.

At Al Hassan Sports City in Irbid Al Hussein lost the chance to keep their lead when they drew 1-1 with Al Ramtha. Al Hussein seemed to have the advantage after a 12th minute goal by Aref Hussein gave them an early lead that could have been followed by a second goal which they failed to score.

Towards the end of the first half, Al Ramtha succeeded in changing their style of play and attacked more effectively resulting in an important equalising goal by Salim Dhyabhat that saved Al Ramtha from a defeat and added a point to their standings.

In another match, Al Faisali scored an expected win of 4-1 over Sahab. Al Faisali dominated throughout the match as Subhi Sulaiman scored their first two goals in the 11th and 33rd minutes ending the first half 2-0.

Al Faisali went on to score

the third goal by Jamal Abu Abed in the 57th minute and Subhi Awad scored the fourth goal in the 76th minute.

Sahab meanwhile could not pose any real danger on Al Faisali's goal and even their only goal was scored due to a defensive error by Al Faisali.

In another of this week's matches Al Qadissieh scored an important victory over bottom-of division Yarmouk. Amman whose struggle to avoid relegation seems to be fruitless.

Both teams played a moderate match. Al Qadissieh scored the match's only goal in the 28th minute. Yarmouk Amman tried to equalise but failed and the match ended 1-0 for Al Qadissieh.

In the upcoming matches Al Wihdat plays Al Qadissieh Wednesday, Yarmouk Amman plays Al Hussein Thursday, Al Arabi plays Sahab and Al Faisali clashes with Al Ahli Friday.

### STANDINGS

Team	Played	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Al Ramtha	13	7	4	2	26	15	18
Al Hussein	12	5	4	1	20	11	16
Al Faisali	12	5	5	2	21	11	15
Al Wihdat	12	5	4	3	20	12	14
Al Qadissieh	13	4	5	4	12	9	13
Al Ahli	12	4	5	3	11	11	13
Sahab	13	2	7	4	17	27	11
Al Arabi	13	2	3	8	13	27	7
Yarmouk Amman	12	2	1	9	6	23	5

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### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
& YAMAM HIRSH  
GOREN Bridge Media Services, Inc.

#### ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠A1065 ♥J ♣K74 ♠Q862

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

2 ♥ Pass 3

What do you bid now?

A.—What a pity that partner holds the wrong major. Still, you have enough to bid game and you certainly don't want to try for a 4-3 spade fit or an 11-trick contract in clubs. Bid three no trump.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AQ63 ♥AJ982 ♠7 ♣Q87

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one diamond.

What action do you take?

A.—We can understand those who are reluctant to hear partner respond to a takeout double with two clubs, and therefore, choose a one-heart overcall rather than risk losing a 5-3 heart fit. However, we feel that this is a much higher risk of missing a 4-4 spade fit. Our choice is to double, and pass should partner respond two clubs.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AKJ8 ♥10 ♣K85 ♠Q7632

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one diamond.

What action do you take?

A.—You can't double because partner's most likely response in hearts would leave you in an untenable position. This is one of those rare hands where we would overcall on a four-card suit—the suit quality and strength of the hand warrants

it. Bid one spade.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠KJ83 ♥AQ873 ♠6 ♣Q85

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?

A.—When an opponent opens the bidding in your best suit, it is invariably in your best interests to pass initially. This hand is no exception—your spade suit is nowhere near good enough for an overall, even at the one level.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AQ1072 ♥6 ♠KQ7 ♠AQ63

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one diamond.

What action do you take?

A.—This hand is a whit too strong for a one-spade overcall. Our choice would be to double, then bid spades as cheaply as possible over partner's response. If partner persists in hearts, a no-trump contract could still be a viable possibility.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AKB3 ♥K1062 ♠J6 ♣Q86

The bidding has proceeded:

East South West

1 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ 4 ♠ 5 ♠ 6 ♠ 7 ♠ 8 ♠ 9 ♠ 10 ♠ 11 ♠ 12 ♠ 13 ♠ 14 ♠ 15 ♠ 16 ♠ 17 ♠ 18 ♠ 19 ♠ 20 ♠ 21 ♠ 22 ♠ 23 ♠ 24 ♠ 25 ♠ 26 ♠ 27 ♠ 28 ♠ 29 ♠ 30 ♠ 31 ♠ 32 ♠ 33 ♠ 34 ♠ 35 ♠ 36 ♠ 37 ♠ 38 ♠ 39 ♠ 40 ♠ 41 ♠ 42 ♠ 43 ♠ 44 ♠ 45 ♠ 46 ♠ 47 ♠ 48 ♠ 49 ♠ 50 ♠ 51 ♠ 52 ♠ 53 ♠ 54 ♠ 55 ♠ 56 ♠ 57 ♠ 58 ♠ 59 ♠ 60 ♠ 61 ♠ 62 ♠ 63 ♠ 64 ♠ 65 ♠ 66 ♠ 67 ♠ 68 ♠ 69 ♠ 70 ♠ 71 ♠ 72 ♠ 73 ♠ 74 ♠ 75 ♠ 76 ♠ 77 ♠ 78 ♠ 79 ♠ 80 ♠ 81 ♠ 82 ♠ 83 ♠ 84 ♠ 85 ♠ 86 ♠ 87 ♠ 88 ♠ 89 ♠ 90 ♠ 91 ♠ 92 ♠ 93 ♠ 94 ♠ 95 ♠ 96 ♠ 97 ♠ 98 ♠ 99 ♠ 100 ♠ 101 ♠ 102 ♠ 103 ♠ 104 ♠ 105 ♠ 106 ♠ 107 ♠ 108 ♠ 109 ♠ 110 ♠ 111 ♠ 112 ♠ 113 ♠ 114 ♠ 115 ♠ 116 ♠ 117 ♠ 118 ♠ 119 ♠ 120 ♠ 121 ♠ 122 ♠ 123 ♠ 124 ♠ 125 ♠ 126 ♠ 127 ♠ 128 ♠ 129 ♠ 130 ♠ 131 ♠ 132 ♠ 133 ♠ 134 ♠ 135 ♠ 136 ♠ 137 ♠ 138 ♠ 139 ♠ 140 ♠ 141 ♠ 142 ♠ 143 ♠ 144 ♠ 145 ♠ 146 ♠ 147 ♠ 148 ♠ 149 ♠ 150 ♠ 151 ♠ 152 ♠ 153 ♠ 154 ♠ 155 ♠ 156 ♠ 157 ♠ 158 ♠ 159 ♠ 160 ♠ 161 ♠ 162 ♠ 163 ♠ 164 ♠ 165 ♠ 166 ♠ 167 ♠ 168 ♠ 169 ♠ 170 ♠ 171 ♠ 172 ♠ 173 ♠ 174 ♠ 175 ♠ 176 ♠ 177 ♠ 178 ♠ 179 ♠ 180 ♠ 181 ♠ 182 ♠ 183 ♠ 184 ♠ 185 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# Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date 17/7/92	TOKYO CLOSE Date 20/7/92
Sterling Pound	1.9510	1.9508
Deutsche Mark	1.4945	1.4968
Swiss Franc	1.3015	1.2980
French Franc	4.9500	4.9158**
Japanese Yen	124.58	124.61
European Currency Unit	1.3965	1.4025**

Percentage Interest Rates

Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.25	3.37	3.50	3.56
Sterling Pound	10.00	10.06	10.12	10.06
Deutsche Mark	8.75	9.75	9.81	9.68
Swiss Franc	8.81	8.75	8.81	8.82
French Franc	10.12	10.18	10.18	10.12
Japanese Yen	4.46	4.40	4.21	4.18
European Currency Unit	10.68	10.68	10.68	10.68

Prevalent Metals

Date: 20/7/92

Metal	UNIT	10/7/92	Metal	UNIT	10/7/92
Gold	359.25	6.65	Silver	4.01	.090

Other Currencies

Currency	UNIT	10/7/92	16/7/92	20/7/92
U.S. Dollar	0.664	0.664	0.664	0.664
Sterling Pound	1.2912	1.2912	1.2912	1.2912
Deutsche Mark	0.4545	0.4545	0.4545	0.4545
Swiss Franc	0.5097	0.5097	0.5097	0.5097
French Franc	0.1345	0.1345	0.1345	0.1345
Japanese Yen	0.5322	0.5322	0.5322	0.5322
Dutch Guilder	0.4029	0.4029	0.4029	0.4029
Swedish Krona	0.1251	0.1251	0.1251	0.1251
Hong Kong	0.0599	0.0599	0.0599	0.0599
Belgian Franc	0.02200	0.02200	0.02200	0.02200

CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	10/7/92	16/7/92	20/7/92
All-Share	141.67	141.67	141.67
Banking Sector	104.59	104.59	104.59
Insurance Sector	158.42	158.42	158.42
Industry Sector	194.07	194.07	194.07
Services Sector	177.42	177.42	177.42

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

Index	10/7/92	16/7/92	20/7/92
All-Share	141.67	141.67	141.67
Banking Sector	104.59	104.59	104.59
Insurance Sector	158.42	158.42	158.42
Industry Sector	194.07	194.07	194.07
Services Sector	177.42	177.42	177.42

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

Index	10/7/92	16/7/92	20/7/92
All-Share	141.67	141.67	141.67
Banking Sector	104.59	104.59	104.59
Insurance Sector	158.42	158.42	158.42
Industry Sector	194.07	194.07	194.07
Services Sector	177.42	177.42	177.42

**Cinema** Tel: 677420

**CONCORD**

**PARAMEDICS**

Show: 3:30, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

**Showdown in Little Tokyo**

Show: 5:10 p.m. only.

**Nabil Al Mashini Theatre** Tel: 675571

**As of Wednesday July 22**

**a play for all the family**

**SHAHRAZAD AND SINBAD**

Prepared and directed by Hakim Harb

Daily shows at 5 p.m. and special shows for schools.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK OFFICE AMMAN - JORDAN

TELEPHONE: 660170 / 661170

ORGANIZED MARKET PRICE LIST FOR JORDAN 20/07/1992

COUNTRY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OFFER PRICE	OPENING PRICE
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	1,145	2,800	2,800	2,750
JORDAN KHALIL BANK	2,282	1,280	1,280	1,280
THE JORDANIAN BANK	3,032	2,480	2,480	2,480
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	1,732	2,850	2,840	2,830
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	4,684	3,120	3,140	3,140
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD	4,800	1,160	1,170	1,160
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	9,216	1,090	1,090	1,100
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	124,917	3,160	3,200	3,200
BUSINESS BANK	840	2,100	2,120	2,100
BETT REAL INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	154,201	11,250	11,250	11,250
ARAB BANK	34,820	117,250	116,250	116,000
JORDANIAN INSURANCE	16,850	2,900	2,920	2,920
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	1,225	2,460	2,480	2,480
JORDANIAN INSURANCE & REINSURANCE	3,975	2,650	2,650	2,650
THE NATIONAL ARABIA INSURANCE	4,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	4,725	2,150	2,150	2,150
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	8,497	1,270	1,250	1,260
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	18,528	4,040	4,040	4,030
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	67,418	1,350	1,380	1,350
UNITED DISTANCE ELECTRICITY	1,340	0,650	0,660	0,660
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	2,742	2,400	2,400	2,380
UNITED KIDNEY & CONDOMINIUM HOTELS	294,065	1,600	1,600	1,630
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	64	0,270	0,270	0,270
JORDANIAN AIRLINES & EQUIPMENT LEASING	4,345	0,960	0,960	0,960
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	74,625	0,730	0,730	0,730
ARAB POWER CONVERTING & TRADING	3,910	1,520	1,510	1,500
JORDAN DAIRY	3,356	2,490	2,480	2,460
THE PUBLIC WORKS	353	2,370	2,400	2,400
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	115,176	7,820	7,810	7,810
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	44,247	9,700	9,700	9,740
THE INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	51,575	5,770	5,800	5,850
ARAB CHEMICAL DETERGENTS INDUSTRIES	23,406	21,150	21,500	21,850
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	128,035	4,620	4,630	4,700
TAR AL DAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	12,026	6,600	6,640	6,700
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	5,610	3,750	3,750	3,730
THE JORDANIAN WOODS HILLS	2,340	6,600	6,600	6,600
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	27,764	4,700	4,700	4,760
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	4,142	0,780	0,780	0,770
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	1,280	3,750	3,500	3,500
JORDAN TANNING	9,800	4,900	4,900	4,900
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	13,093	0,560	0,570	0,580
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	2,502	4,170	4,160	4,180
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	89,197	13,800	13,950	13,700
ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	5,740	3,800	3,810	3,860
STEEL INDUSTRIES	908	2,810	2,820	2,830
WOLLEN INDUSTRIES	218	1,880	1,880	1,880
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & VEHICLE/TECH	460	1,140	1,150	1,150
SPINNING & WEAVING	2,191	3,150	3,130	3,130
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	96,686	6,700	6,700	6,670
JORDAN SILICO-CHEMICALS	34,147	3,510	3,510	3,630
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	32,505	1,240	1,240	1,250
JORDAN SODIUM CHLORIDE INDUSTRIES	700	1,740	1,750	1,750
JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRIES	29,713	0,600	0,600	0,610
UNIVERSAL WOODEN INDUSTRIES	72,639	5,180	5,200	5,170
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	38,823	2,170	2,170	2,170
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	7,625	21,000	21,000	21,000
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	14,485	8,460	8,470	8,480

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — The Nikkei average fell 663.59 points to 15,884.48, below 16,000 for the first time in about three weeks.

SYDNEY — The All Ordinaries Index fell 14.3 to 1,615 following Friday's drop in New York. But gold stocks rallied on gains in bullion prices.

HONG KONG — Uncertainty over the financing of Hong Kong's airport sent the Hang Seng Index down 100.89 points to 6,027.17.

SINGAPORE — The Straits Times Index fell 5.39 points to 1,445.75, its lowest since April. Weak local sentiment was aggravated by the falls overseas.

FRANKFURT — Investors dumped shares following last week's German discount rate rise and the dollar's fall. The Dax Index closed at 1,649.67, down 52.99.

ZURICH — The SPI Index, suffering from Germany's interest rate increase, tumbled 49 points to 1,756.6.

PARIS — The CAC-40 touched a 1992 low but recovered slightly to 1,767.9, down 33.8 for the day.

LONDON — Investors are worried ahead of U.K. retail figures due Wednesday. The FTSE Index fell 28.2 to 2,403.7.

NEW YORK — A weak dollar, economic worries and uncertainty about U.S. politics sent the Dow Jones Industrials reeling 38.9 points to 3,292.74 at 1607 GMT.

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## Peugeot signs accord to produce cars in Egypt

PARIS (AP) — French auto maker PSA Peugeot Citroen S.A. has finally secured entrance in the Egyptian car market after 11 years of pursuit, the company said.

Peugeot announced over the weekend that it signed a joint-venture accord with local distributor CDC Wagnih Abaza and two French banks — Societe Generale and the state-owned Banque Nationale de Paris (BNP) — to produce up to 10,000 Peugeot 405S a year. The cars will be made in a plant owned by Chrysler Corp. and Arab investors.

The joint venture will be 51 per cent owned by Peugeot, 30 per cent by Wagnih, and 9.5 per cent each by the two banks.

In the first year, Peugeot said it will make 1,500 cars, then 3,500 the second year and 10,000 four years hence if the market can absorb that level of production.

Egyptian car sales currently hover around 50,000 to 70,000 annually, while the total amount of vehicles on the road is estimated at about 700,000. That number is expected to reach 940,000 by 2000.

The 405S will cost about 110,000 francs (\$22,000) a piece, Peugeot said.

Egypt, enjoying a healthier economy following the cancellation of nearly one half of its foreign debt, is actively pursuing modernisation of its largely state-dominated industrial sector.

The Peugeot investment, on the order of 10 million francs (\$2 million), reflects the Egyptian government's wooing of foreign capital to support the revitalisation effort.

General Motors Corp. of the United States recently signed an accord to assemble 5,000 units a year in Egypt, while Japan's Suzuki Motor Co. and Hyundai Motor Co. of South Korea also are pursuing deals.

Peugeot said its entry in the North African country's car market is part of its efforts to "globalise" output. It follows similar projects in Poland and Argentina.

In Egypt, Peugeot will encourage its parts suppliers to locate in-country. The company has agreed to assure that 30 per cent of the materials used in the 405S during the first year of production are made locally, rising to 40 per cent in the second year.

## S.Korean workers become less violent

SEOUL (R) — South Korean workers are becoming less militant and more ready to negotiate rather than down tools, according to government figures.

The number of labour disputes in the first half of the year fell 21.9 per cent from the same period in 1991, a labour ministry spokesman said.

"The decline in labour disputes indicates that citizens have turned their faces against illegal or violent labour protests, forcing workers to try to work out problems rather than resort to protest actions," a ministry official said.

No figures on violent disputes were available but violence has decreased markedly in the past two years.

Labour disputes decreased to 234 cases in the whole of 1991 from 322 cases in 1990.

South Korea launched a nationwide "work more, spend less" campaign last year in an effort to revitalise its economy in the face of a widening trade deficit.

## Bahrain shows trade deficit

NANAMA (R) — Bahrain's trade balance in the first quarter of this year deteriorated by 158 million dinars (\$419 million) against the same period last year, according to official figures released Monday.

The Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA) said in its quarterly report that the first quarter had a deficit of 147.3 million dinars (\$391 million) compared with a surplus of 10.7 million dinars (\$28 million) in the first quarter of 1991.

Exports dropped to 264.9 million dinars (\$703 million) down from 353 million (\$939 million) a year earlier. Meanwhile, imports for the same period rose to 412.2 million dinars (\$1.09 billion) from 342.3 million (\$908 million).

Oil exports totalled 225.0 million dinars (\$597 million) at end-March 1992 compared with 291.6 million (\$773 million) last year.

Bahrain, a small Gulf oil producing state, produces around 43,000 barrels per day.

Non-oil exports during the first three months of 1992 fell sharply to 39.9 million dinars (\$106 million) from 61.5 million (\$163 million) in the first three months of 1991.

Oil imports, mainly from Saudi Arabia which supplies the bulk of crude used in Bahrain's refinery, fell to 129.2 million dinars (\$343 million) against 199.4 million (\$529 million).

Non-oil imports doubled to 283 million dinars (\$751 million). Assets of Bahrain's offshore banks rose to \$56.80 billion in the first quarter of 1992, up 10.3 per cent on the same period last year.

A BMA quarterly bulletin, received Monday, put total assets of Bahrain-based offshore banking units (OBU) in the first quarter of last year at \$51.50 billion.

The bulletin showed there were 46 OBUS operating in Bahrain at end-March 1992. There were 75 in the mid-1970s, when Bahrain became the base of foreign banks rushing to take advantage of the oil boom.

Bahrain-based banks — particularly OBUS which rely heavily on interbank credit lines — were hard hit by the loss of business confidence which followed Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait but most have since recovered.

Assets of commercial banks operating in Bahrain rose to 2.01 billion dinars (\$5.32 billion) at end-March 1992 from 1.95 billion (\$5.16 billion) in the same period last year, the BMA said.

BMA assets fell to \$13 million (\$1.36 billion) from \$54.3 million (\$1.41 billion) the previous year.

## Latvia discards Russian rouble

MOSCOW (R) — The Baltic state of Latvia discarded the Russian rouble Monday in favour of its own currency in an effort to protect itself against soaring inflation in Russia, local journalists said.

The Latvian rouble, pegged to the Russian rouble, is an interim unit which will be replaced later by a fully-fledged currency, the lat. Local officials say the lat could be introduced in September.

The new notes carry coloured geometric designs but have no national symbols.

Latvia sees the new currency as an assertion of newly-won independence. But its introduction was hastened by an acute shortage of Russian cash that caused delays in payments of salaries and pensions.

Latvia the second former Soviet republic to abandon the rouble. Last month, neighbouring Estonia introduced its kroon, pegged to the German mark.

Ukraine plans to introduce the grivna but has deferred the move several times.

The official exchange rate, set by the Latvian State Bank, is one Latvian rouble for one Russian rouble.

But private exchange offices set slightly higher rates. The largest of them, Parex, was changing one Latvian rouble for 1.05 Russian rubles Monday.

The transition to the Latvian rouble started on July 13, when

people were invited to exchange their Russian rubles and change in the shops was given only in the Latvian unit.

From Monday, the local population could buy and sell the Russian rouble as any other foreign currency. But use of the Russian rouble in shops is banned.

Personal saving accounts in the Russian rouble and accounts of enterprises at banks were transformed automatically into Latvian currency.

The Latvian rouble is issued in banknotes of one, five, 20, 50, 200 and 500 rubles. There are no coins.

The highest denomination banknote in Russia is 5,000 rubles, introduced last week to ease a cash shortage.

Local citizens say the introduction of the new currency caused no difficulties.

Russia, which has warned other ex-Soviet republics to coordinate the introduction of their currencies with Moscow or face tough economic consequences, appeared to be satisfied with Latvia's move.

Latvia, despite its political independence, is highly dependent on trade with Russia.

Russian and Latvian state banks agreed on a structure for mutual payments, granting each other equivalent credits in their respective currencies for trade.

ITAR-TASS news agency said Monday.

## Lebanese trade lira at 2,000 to a dollar

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese lira plunged against the dollar Monday because of pressure on the government ahead of a general election, bankers said.

The lira was traded at 2,000 to the dollar on the unofficial market — the same low of May 4, two days before workers' riots against its decline toppled the government.

The central bank quoted a rate of 1,875 to the dollar.

"The market is chaotic. Neither the central bank nor the commercial banks intervened today," a dealer told Reuters.

"Someone is exerting pressure to change the government and influence the elections," he added. Other bankers agreed that political rather than economic pressures were behind the fall.

A businessman said political problems were behind the drop.

"Whoever is doing this, creating this panic, hopes it will trigger more riots to stop an election," he said.

Opponents of government plans for polls before Syrian troops are supposed to pull back to eastern Lebanon in September are yet to set a date for a one-day general strike this week.

The Syrian-backed government is scheduled this week to set a date for Lebanon's first general election in 20 years.

Thousands of workers and youths rioted across Lebanon for three days in early May during a general strike in protest against the lira hitting 2,000 and soaring inflation this year.

Western diplomats said it was unclear if the lira's renewed fall would lead to more civil strife or whether the Lebanese and Syrian armies would move to stamp out trouble at an early stage.

Lebanon's 15-year civil war ended in 1990. But the economy has so far failed to revive because of low levels of foreign investment and concerns over the stability of the country.

## Australia's teenagers seek big spending on jobs

CANBERRA (R) — Australia's teenagers, faced with an unemployment rate of almost 36 per cent, have urged the government to "get real" and spend two billion Australian dollars (\$1.5 billion) on job creation schemes.

The Australian Youth Policy and Action Coalition, representing 15 to 19-year-olds, said Canberra should spend the money on local council works, such as roads, under an emergency scheme to give youth a chance.

The Australian Council of Trade Unions also called on the government to pump one billion Australian dollars (\$745 million) into the economy, patchily emerging from recession.

Neither appeal is



## U.N. closes Sarajevo Airport as heavy fighting continues

SARAJEVO (R) — U.N. peacekeepers halted a humanitarian airlift to Bosnia Monday as Muslim, Croat and Serb fighters, brushing aside a ceasefire, turned Sarajevo Airport into a battlefield.

Twenty relief flights for the besieged Bosnian capital were cancelled when airport buildings were hit and splinters from artillery and mortar blasts made runways unsafe.

General Lewis MacKenzie, the commander of U.N. force in Sarajevo, told reporters: "It would be irresponsible to ask flights to continue coming in. It is as bad as at any time in the last two weeks."

The warring sides fought through the ceasefire deadline Sunday without a pause in Sarajevo, where 380,000 civilians are trapped, and other war zones.

The clashes in the capital, which included an infantry battle around the zoo, lasted until the early hours.

Sarajevo Airport was caught in crossfire between the Muslim suburbs of Dobrinja and Butmir and Serb-held Ilidza.

Its closure forced Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic to postpone plans to fly to Zagreb for talks with President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia.

U.N. spokesman Mik Magnusson said the airport would remain shut until it was safe for the lumbering transport planes, bringing urgent supplies of food and medicine, to land again.

Three relief flights already in the air were obliged to return to their bases in Italy and Croatia.

The ceasefire, signed by leaders of all three rival communities

in London last week, should have lasted 14 days and opened a window for peace talks.

It suffered the same fate as other attempts to stop the fighting between rebel Serbs and Bosnia's Muslim and Croat majority who voted for independence from Yugoslavia in March.

"It's unfortunate that the ceasefire seemed to generate more fighting than at other times," Gen. MacKenzie said. "It is getting a little tedious trying to calm things down."

The U.N. commander said leaders of the fighting forces appeared to have lost control but added: "I still hold the leaders responsible for what is going on."

Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes, arriving for a European Community meeting in Brussels said the United Nations should respond to the ceasefire violations by hardening its attitude to the combatants.

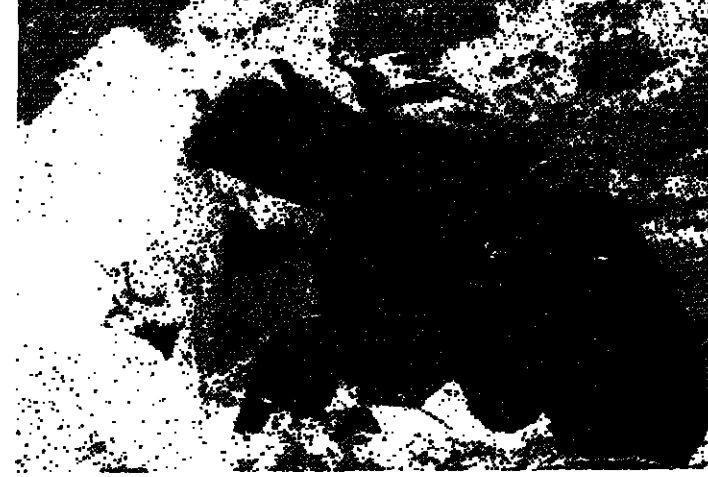
But British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, who visited Sarajevo Friday, urged caution and told reporters: "I said yesterday that the guns would not fall silent immediately. The next two or three days will be the test."

Sarajevo Radio reported fighting also continued in and around the towns of Gorazde, Bugojno, Mostar, Visoko and Breza.

The Yugoslav News Agency Tanjug said four Serb civilians returning from a funeral were killed by Muslim attackers at Srednje near Sarajevo Sunday.

A Serb fighter was killed and another seriously wounded in another Muslim attack on the village of Okruglica near Ilidza northwest of the capital.

More than 7,500 people have



A mother weeps over the grave of her son killed in the Bosnian fighting

been killed during the conflict and more than a million drive from their homes.

The fighting wrecked immediate hopes for an agreement by both sides to place their artillery and other heavy weapons under U.N. control.

Yugoslavia's new prime minister, Yugoslav-American businessman Milan Panic, said after talks with Mr. Izetbegovic in Sarajevo Sunday that a deal had been struck to stop fighting in Gorazde in particular.

"War for the Serbs in Bosnia is over," Mr. Panic said. "There will be peace in Gorazde from tomorrow (Monday) and all heavy weapons from all sides in that region will be transferred to Yugoslav military pending U.N. control."

Gorazde, where up to 70,000 are encircled by Serb forces, is one of the towns where the war continued.

Yugoslavia, now made up of only the Republics of Serbia and Montenegro, has been branded the aggressor by the international community.

Mr. Panic, who took over as prime minister last week, said Serb-dominated Yugoslavia and the Bosnian Serbs were ready to end "this stupid, unbelievable, unconscionable war."

Mr. Panic gave Mr. Izetbegovic a short time to reply to an offer for peace talks and said that if the Bosnian president did not agree, then the world would know which side wanted the war.

Mr. Izetbegovic told reporters Mr. Panic appeared "insufficiently informed" on what was happening in Bosnia and that he doubted the prime minister could deliver on his promises to rein in the Serb irregulars.

Mr. Panic later left for New York to meet U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

## Defiant Kremlin coup plotter attacks Gorbachev

MOSCOW (R) — His face was pale, his eyes sunken and red after 10 months in a Moscow prison.

But Gennady Yanayev, head of the Emergency Committee that ousted Mikhail Gorbachev for three dramatic days last August, was unrepentant in his first interview since the gates of Moscow's "Sailors' Rest" jail slammed on him. "It was not a push," he said.

Wearing a green jacket and a blue, open-necked shirt, Mr. Yanayev talked bitterly of those who portrayed him as a fascist, an idiot or a "Rasputin" in the eyes of the world.

He was, he said, a simple country man who wanted the best for his country.

"I feel guilt before the Russian people only in that I could have changed their lives, could have averted the situation the country is in now," he said, sitting in a grim, green-painted prison room.

"But I failed to do that," the 54-year-old former vice-president added in a television interview broadcast Sunday.

That failure, he said, removed the last obstacle to the collapse of the Soviet Union, bloodshed and hardship.

He might have added the banning of the Communist Party to the list of momentous events that followed the coup.

The cameras closed in on Mr. Yanayev's hands, folded on a wooden table by a packet of cigarettes. They were steady, unshaking.

His hands had trembled uncontrollably at a Moscow news conference on the first day of the coup.

Mr. Gorbachev, who Mr. Yanayev had said was ill at his Crimean holiday home, mocked him on his return, referring to "those healthy men with shaking hands."

"How can you speak of a conspiracy to seize power if the highest state officials participated?" he asked.

Mr. Gorbachev alone was missing from the committee.

Mr. Yanayev said Mr. Gorbachev had spoken at a meeting as early as April 1991 about the possibility of declaring a state of emergency and had ordered officials to draw up documents.

In August, Mr. Gorbachev failed to act, he said. The country was sinking towards chaos.

"He was indecisive, hesitant... in the morning he had one policy and in the evening another, depending upon who had last formulated the principles of his policy for him."

Other members of the eight-man committee, including former Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov and Prime Minister Nikolai Pavlov, have been shown briefly answering questions on videotape smuggled out of the prison.

But this was the first appearance of the nominal head of the committee.

Mr. Yanayev and six other committee members, including KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov, face trial on charges of conspiring to seize power. The seventh, Interior Minister Boris Pugo, shot himself and his wife to avoid arrest.

## Italy moves prisoners after judge's murder

PALERMO, Sicily (R) — Italy dispersed convicted mafia gangsters across the country and threw a ring of steel around Palermo's main jail Monday after the murder of anti-mafia Judge Paolo Borsellino.

About 200 helmeted soldiers with rifles were deployed outside the maximum-security Ucciardone Jail at dawn after inmates staged protests overnight, officials said.

Some 35 mafia mobsters, most of them clan bosses, were flown out of the jail, a converted fortress, overnight in the government's first response to Sunday's car bomb which killed Judge Borsellino and five bodyguards.

The mobsters were flown to unspecified jails throughout Italy. Magistrates fear jailed mobsters are able to go on governing their clans from behind bars, through orders issued to visiting relatives.

Pope John Paul, in hospital recovering from intestinal surgery, dubbed the latest murders "an insult to Italy."

"The Pope was shocked by the killing (of Judge Borsellino and his bodyguards) because he considers it an insult to Italy," chief Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls told reporters.

Italian troops will be sent to guard jails in Sicily, the Italian News Agency (ANSA) reported.

Police and paramilitary police — a total of 300 men — were also sent to the island as reinforcements after a decision taken overnight by senior crime fighters.

The measures coincided with signs of unrest among the 400 policemen who act as bodyguards for top civil servants and politicians in the Sicilian capital.

Their anger exploded after Judge Borsellino's long-time colleague, Judge Giovanni Falcone, was killed by a car bomb in May. Three police bodyguards and Judge Falcone's wife also died.

Paramilitary Carabinieri and Finance Ministry police stood in as bodyguards Monday while the normal police escorts held a meeting to decide on whether or not to stage a protest strike.

Overnight, an angry crowd that included many police bodyguards scuffled with Carabinieri outside the office of the Palermo civil governor.

The demonstrators shouted insults, threw coins and spat at Italy's National Police Chief Vincenzo Parisi after a late-night meeting of anti-crime officials in the building.

In Rome, about 100 police bodyguards drove through the capital's historic centre with wailing sirens early Monday to express sympathy with their Sicilian colleagues.

The site of Sunday's bombing resembled a war zone.

Eyewitnesses said they had seen several looters take advantage of the panic to steal equipment and other valuables from flats gutted by the blast.

A crowd, most of them young people, gathered outside the flat where Judge Borsellino's wife Agnese Piraino Letto and other relatives mourned the dead judge.

Firemen and others were still clearing debris at the scene of the blast Monday morning. Some 15 families who live in the building were forced to sleep in a hotel because of the damage to their flats.

## COLUMN 8

### Murphy Brown plots revenge on Quayle

NEW YORK (R) — Murphy Brown is plotting revenge on U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle in the next series of her comedy show, the programme's creator told the New York Times. Diane English said the new series starting in September would respond to Mr. Quayle's charge that the Murphy Brown character symbolised the denigration of American family values by a Hollywood cultural elite. Brown, an unmarried television news anchorwoman played by Candice Bergen, had a child at the end of the last series of the show. Mr. Quayle said that by having a child out of wedlock she "mocks the importance of fathers." Ms. English told the New York Times in an interview published Monday that the first episode of the new series would be labelled Murphy's Revenge. She did not elaborate. Quayle spokesman David Beckwith told the newspaper Sunday that English had twisted the vice president's words and was planning to take commercial advantage of the attention the incident had attracted. Ms. English has said Mr. Quayle's opposition to unmarried mothers reflects a hypocritical inconsistency with the Bush administration's abortion policies.

### King and queen of Spain accredited

BARCELONA (R) — King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain had to get themselves accredited for the Olympic Games just like the competitors. The only difference was that the photographs on their identity passes had been prepared in advance, relieving them of the burden of joining the queue to be filmed. They later visited the Olympic Village.

### Yeltsin addresses imposters in Canada House speech

OTTAWA (AP) — When Russian President Boris Yeltsin addressed a packed House of Commons during his visit to Ottawa last month, he was speaking to an audience of imposters. Many of the "legislators" who gave him two standing ovations weren't lawmakers at all, but stand-ins brought in to fill the cavernous chamber. Lawmakers from both sides of the house were out of town, so most of the seats were filled with parliamentary aides, committee clerks, house employees and members of the prime minister's office, said a legislative staffer who spoke on condition of anonymity. Pictures of the government benches tell the story. They show young female faces where the older, male faces of parliamentarians should have been. The photos also show a cluster of blue suits around Mr. Yeltsin and a sea of colours fanning out from there. The smattering of Commons lawmakers who did show up for the historic speech were seated close to the president. This was not the first time extras were recruited to pack the chamber. Last year, President Carlos Salinas De Gortari of Mexico addressed a small crowd in the House. Although some staffers were quickly placed in lawmakers' seats, the chamber looked almost empty.

### Labelle, Estefan attend Houston wedding

MENDHAM, New Jersey (AP) — Dionne Warwick, Patti LaBelle, Gloria Estefan, Donald Trump and basketball star Isiah Thomas were among the guests Saturday for the wedding of Whitney Houston and Bobby Brown. A Houston spokeswoman, Regina Brown, didn't return several telephone calls to confirm the private ceremony occurred, but a worker hired to help decorate Houston's mansion said it had. The worker wouldn't give his name. Large balloons floated high over the singer's Mendham estate, apparently to discourage snooping from the air. The ceremony was planned for a large tent before about 150 relatives and friends, Brown said earlier. About 600 people were invited to a reception under a larger tent on the grounds. Houston, 28, a native of nearby Newark, and Brown, 23, a Boston native, dated for three years. Houston is known for his hit "I Wanna Dance with Somebody." The Greatest Love Of All and Saving All My Love. Brown's hits include My Preppie and On Our Own.

## ASEAN believes Japan is in no mood to rearm

MANILA (R) — ASEAN nations have no fears that a rearmament Japan will threaten South East Asia despite a new law allowing Tokyo to send troops overseas for the first time since World War II, a senior official said Monday.

"We do not see Japan as a whole in a mood to rearm dramatically (to) cause concern in the region," said Romualdo Ong, chief of the Philippine Foreign Office Asia-Pacific Desk.

He chairs a panel organising the ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) foreign ministers meeting opening in Manila Tuesday.

"There is no one single threat to regional security," Mr. Ong told a news conference.

Mr. Ong said Japanese officials had suggested meeting senior officials of ASEAN — which links Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore, Thailand and The Philippines — to discuss security issues affecting the region.

No decision has been taken on

the proposal, he said.

ASEAN countries due to meet U.S. Secretary of State James Baker Sunday may discuss the effect of the withdrawal of U.S. forces from the Philippines by year-end, Mr. Ong said.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus has said that ASEAN nations want American forces to stay to maintain stability in the world's fastest-growing area.

Mr. Ong said ASEAN preferred keeping discussions about rival claims to the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea on an informal basis. The issue heated up when China occupied one of the isles on July 4.

China, Vietnam, Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei and Malaysia claim the Spratlys.

Manila has lobbied ASEAN to issue a statement on the dispute. Diplomatic sources said Sunday the association would urge approval of an international code of behaviour to govern settlement of the problem.

## N. Korea praises Bush

TOKYO (R) — North Korea has voiced rare praise for George Bush after the U.S. president's declaration that Washington would no longer produce plutonium for nuclear weapons.

The praise came in a commentary by the official daily Minju Chosun, the text of which was carried by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) monitored Monday in Tokyo.

The newspaper called Mr. Bush's announcement very affirmative, saying: "The Korean people will follow the moves of the United States together with the peace-loving people of the world."

It added, however: "If the United States truly wants the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and peace, it ... should stop

producing nuclear weapons before anyone else. Only this can be regarded as a good conduct."

Meanwhile, North Korea offered an olive branch to the South Monday when Pyongyang's deputy prime minister, Kim Dal-Hyon, invited his Southern counterpart to reciprocate his current landmark visit across their ideological frontier.

"Kim Dal-Hyon officially invited Choi Kak-Kyu to Pyongyang, which Mr. Choi accepted and offered his thanks," said a spokesman at Mr. Choi's office. "The dates and further details of (the) trip will be discussed later," he said.

Mr. Kim started his first full day in South Korea at the Kwachow government complex south of Seoul, where he was met by Mr. Choi.

## U.K.'s 'minister for fun' involved in privacy row

LONDON (R) — Britain's arts and sports minister, popularly known as the "minister for fun", appealed for privacy after reports linking him with an unemployed actress were splashed all over the popular press.

David Mellor, whose official title is National Heritage Secretary, also has cabinet responsibility for the media and had ordered a review of press behaviour on the question of privacy.

Newspapers said Mr. Mellor had offered to resign after the

row broke about the reported extra-marital association with Antonia De Sancha, 30, but Prime Minister John Major was said to have told him he need not give up his job.

Mr. Mellor, in a statement issued last Sunday, said he regretted the publicity at an incident in his private life and acknowledged his 18-year marriage to wife Judith was going through a bad patch, which he was working to resolve.

"This I hope we can do in private," he said.

## U.S. Republicans to stress change in presidential campaign

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Republicans will go to the voters with their own message of change as President George Bush seeks reelection, says the president's campaign chairman.

Robert Teeter says a cut in federal spending to reduce the budget deficit will be a priority and that changes in welfare policy are also needed.

"We have got to make some fundamental changes in this country in order to compete in this rapidly emerging world economy," Mr. Teeter said Sunday on the CBS Television Network's Face The Nation programme.

Mr. Teeter said the Republican Party would also stress the need to "restore the kind of traditional American values that held the society together for 200 years and that have been weakened in the last 15, 20, 30 years in this country."

He said that while Mr. Bush has "had some great and historic accomplishments" — many of them in international affairs — he wants to tackle the faltering economy in his second term.

"I don't think there's anybody who doesn't recognise the world is now changing economically as rapidly as it has politically and the real key to our prosperity here at home is going to be our ability to open markets and succeed in

competing in that world," Mr. Teeter said.

Mr. Teeter said the Republican Party wasn't planning a replay of "any previous campaign," in answer to a question about whether negative advertising similar to that used against Michael Dukakis would be starting up.

However, he said the Republican Party would try to "sharpen the difference and the contrast" between the two candidates.

"And in this case, I think it'll be easy. There are very big differences and very big contrast," he said.

Meanwhile, Secretary of State James Baker has passed up an opportunity to deny that he'll quit his cabinet post or take a leave of absence to work on Mr. Bush's campaign.

With Mr. Bush slipping in the polls, there has been speculation that the president may turn to Mr. Baker to run his campaign — as he did in 1988 — or even replace Vice President Dan Quayle on the ticket.

Speaking to reporters as he began his latest foray into the Midwest, he said that he and Mr. Bush did discuss politics on their fishing vacation last week.

"I am not going to talk about what I might talk about in confidence with the president of the

United States," he said Sunday.

"Right now, I am totally focused on this trip which comes at a very important time in this region. That's what's on my agenda."

Republican campaign manager Fred Malek, praising Mr. Baker's foreign policy mission to the Middle East, said the temporary move would be the president's call.

"I don't know whether Jim Baker is going to come into the campaign or the White House or not. All I can say is wherever he is, whether he's at the State Department, in the White House or at the campaign, he's going to do a superb job," Mr. Malek said on NBC Television.

Rumours arose last week that Mr. Baker would be named to replace Vice President Dan Quayle on the ticket, but that evaporated quickly to be replaced by the current speculation of Mr. Baker's role in the White House.

Senate Republican leader Bob Dole wondered if Mr. Baker's move would help the campaign, contending he is not well known outside Washington.

"I've been out in my state several days in the past two weeks, and nobody asked me about Secretary Baker. He's not a known quantity outside Washington, D.C.," Sen. Dole said on CBS Television.

The 1992 race for the White House was fully under way Sunday as Democrat Bill Clinton shook every hand in sight on a bus-tour campaign swing into the Midwest and traded verbal jabs with President Bush.

The Democratic and Republican campaigns alike were busy devising strategies to woo shocked and disappointed supporters of Texas billionaire Ross Perot, who pulled out of the race Thursday.

On the third day of a bus tour through eastern and midwestern states kicking off his campaign, Mr. Clinton jabbed back at Mr. Bush's attacks on the Democratic ticket, saying it was the president's "knee-jerk thing."

At each stop Mr. Clinton waded into crowds shaking every stretched-out hand, rarely disappointing anyone. So did vice presidential nominee Al Gore and the candidates' wives, Hillary Clinton and Tipper Gore.

After attending church in Pittsburgh Sunday, the Arkansas governor said the president's attack on the Democrats as unforgotten tax-and-spend liberals was predictable.

"That is the only word they know how to say," Mr. Clinton told reporters. "They don't have a record to run on. They don't

have a plan for America's future," he added. "It's their knee-jerk thing. All they say is liberal."

Speaking on a visit to the west Saturday, Mr. Bush made his first real attack on his challengers. "They're much more liberal underneath and will prove it when they're elected," he told supporters, invoking comments by former Democratic presidential contender George McGovern.

The remark signalled Mr. Bush's strategy of running against the Democrats by claiming they will raise government spending and taxes while the U.S. budget deficit will hit an estimated \$400 billion this year.

Since his nomination and Mr. Perot's unexpected withdrawal, Mr. Clinton has jumped ahead of the president by a wide margin of over 20 percentage points in the latest opinion polls.

A poll published Sunday in the Los Angeles Times shows the 45-year-old governor leading Mr. Bush by 52 per cent to 32 per cent and indicated Mr. Clinton had benefited most from Mr. Perot's surprise decision.

The candidates are both publicly shrugging off the polls as part of a predictable "bump" Mr. Clinton got after the Democratic convention.